

THE PASSING OF THE GERMAN FLEET. By A. H. Pollen (Illus. by Bernard F. Gribble & Nelson Dawson).
THE LATEST HOUSING REPORT.

JAN 3 - 1918

UNIV. OF MICH

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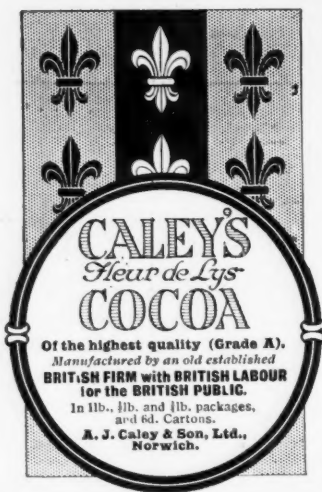
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COUNTRY LIFE

VOL. XLIV.—No. 1143.

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SPEAIGHT

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COUNTRY LIFE

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Agricultural Policy After the War

IT is impossible to imagine anybody who will not give a wholehearted assent to Mr. Lloyd George's exposition of the agricultural policy after the war, unless, indeed, it be the extremists who, in the Premier's words, are more hostile to vested interests than to vested prejudice. One of the most re-assuring passages in the Wolverhampton speech was that in which the speaker said "You must not take any man's property away. You cannot build a great State on dishonesty. . . . Whatever a man has got pay him his full value for it." It is possible to carry out this fundamental principle of good government and yet put in force the very drastic policy which Mr. Lloyd George foreshadowed. It has a double aim: increased production and an increased population on the land. It was to the latter that the Prime Minister directed his main attention. He brought it out

very clearly that the prosperity of industry depends upon the prosperity of agriculture. Industry provides goods for use; agriculture feeds those who make them. It was on still higher grounds, however, that he advocated the encouragement of rural population. It is in the country that the vigorous men are trained who in the end will sustain other industries, "and," he said, "unless you have an agriculture to do that believe me you cannot keep alive an industrial system in this country." Incontrovertible as this statement really is, there have been many speeches and writings on the part of farmers who argued differently. They say that in no other calling is the director called upon to think of the effect upon population. A man who builds a factory for making boots and shoes is not brought to trial by public opinion because factory life at its best does not tend to produce sturdy men and women. They go on to argue that if they are called upon to pay high wages, meet high taxation and bear other increased expenses, they must not only produce largely but do so as cheaply as possible. The end can only be achieved by substituting labour saving machinery for hand labour and thereby actually reducing the population on the land. We do not imagine that Mr. Lloyd George would contradict them. He was not by any means thinking of high economical production of a "factory" farm. But he knows as every man of common sense knows that there is room in England for many different types of agriculture. "By all means," he might reply, "let those who produce on a great scale do so with all the economy of man power that can be compassed." But that does not militate against his advocacy of a new population of small occupiers on the land, each of whom will sit under his own vine and fig tree and achieve the end of increased production by more intensive husbandry.

This is a perfectly sound view to take. There is abundant land in Great Britain more suitable for the production of great crops by close personal attention. Wherever small holdings flourish, the output of food is greater in proportion than it is on a "factory" farm. The small-holder has his own methods for achieving results equal at least, if not superior, to those attained by the large capitalist. His labour economy consists largely in avoiding a wages bill altogether. He and his family toil in unison, and it has been shown in these pages that they do so with such effect that after a moderate number of years spent in tenancy a considerable proportion are able to buy holdings of their own. It is a gradual process, and the Prime Minister painted it with great effect when he came to deal with the question of settlements for soldiers. It is needless to recapitulate the reasons he gave why the country should go to the expense of establishing ex-Service men on the land. They have fought for their country, and it is fair and in accord with ancient practice that when the ploughshare takes the place of the spear they should have a share of the land they fought for. The Romans saw that, and the most flourishing period in Roman history occurred after one of their greatest Emperors had scattered his soldiers over the richest land in Italy. The actual plan under contemplation seems to be that of arranging small holdings in groups with a farm in the middle that will at once play the parts of a teaching centre and an experimental station. There such citizens as are making a first acquaintance with labour on the land will receive the instruction and training which will enable them to proceed on their own account. The initial expenses ought to be, as was promised, borne by the nation. There is no proposal which receives a more enthusiastic assent throughout the country than that of devoting national funds to settlements on the land for soldiers.

Upon other questions equally essential to the welfare of the nation, such as the need for afforestation, the Premier spoke with idyllic eloquence. It was a shrewd suggestion, too, that as far as possible the hillsides should be chosen for forestry, and that the more sheltered and fertile slopes and valleys should be devoted to the production of cereals and other human food. Altogether the speech was one that must have commanded the full assent of the audience.

Our Frontispiece

WE print as our frontispiece to this week's issue a portrait of Admiral Sir David Beatty, K.C.B., D.S.O., to whom the ships of the German Navy demanded for internment were yielded on November 22nd. Admiral Beatty was born in 1871, entering the Navy in 1884.

*. It is particularly requested that no permissions to photograph houses, gardens or livestock on behalf of COUNTRY LIFE be granted except when direct application is made from the offices of the paper.



COUNTRY NOTES

OF all the events of the war that which has impressed itself most on the imagination of the average man is the extraordinarily tame surrender of the German Fleet. At first it could scarcely be credited, so firmly had the warlike character of the Hun been realised, and doubt was felt as to whether they would actually hand over their great ships and submarines or would develop at the last moment some catastrophic device to which all previous negotiations had been a prelude. Even among the uneducated classes the tradition of our own Navy and that of the French Navy is thoroughly understood. It is that the Fleet should always be ready to face destruction rather than surrender. The materially-minded man may object that to have challenged battle would have been only to court death. But against that it is urged that giving in is infectious. Our own maritime records show that the spirit of the Fleet has been raised to a very high standard by the readiness of commanders to face the odds at any time. There was a conspicuous example of that in the early stages of the war when a squadron of British ships was practically annihilated by a superior force under Von Spee. Admiral Cradock gallantly accepted the gage of battle and he and his heroic comrades paid the penalty. But Von Spee's triumph was shortlived. Our gallant Allies, the French have, on more than one occasion, shown themselves as fully alive as any of our own heroes to this duty. But the German has preferred humiliation before the eyes of all Europe. It is as if his courage at the best had been only that of a bully. When it was called upon for a supreme effort it oozed away completely.

IT is gratifying to learn from the Prime Minister's speech that the agricultural policy of the future will include reclamation of the waste land as a cardinal point. Reclamation is a sound business proposition in itself, and, if carried out by the Government, it would in the immediate future provide abundance of work for returning soldiers who wanted something to do on the land. It would take many forms. In the past we have done more reclamation from the sea than in any other direction and much more is still possible, but the great work will lie on the wider tracts of bracken, heather and wild pasture. The allotment holders have done a great deal towards demonstrating its feasibility. They have succeeded in growing splendid crops on village commons which had not previously been under the spade or plough. In many cases the soil is excellent and there are thousands of acres of it which could be brought into tillage with very little trouble indeed. In the neighbourhood of small towns in the north of England there are great expanses of land which simply cry aloud for reclamation. The bringing in of sandy soils such as at present grow only furze and bracken in East Anglia will be a more difficult business and one that will not be so remunerative at first. But there is plenty of experience to show that scientific agriculture will be able to make of barren areas cultivated fields. Arthur Young pointed that out two hundred years ago, and it is curious that his advice should not have been acted upon until now.

FERTILISERS are so essential a factor in progressive farming that we hail with especial satisfaction the Prime Minister's announcement of a national policy for their supply.

Hitherto agriculture has been at the mercy of the foreign trader or the unorganised and inadequate home supply. The foresight of Sir John Lawes of Rothamsted won magnificent justification when Mr. Lloyd George said: "The capacity of the soil can be utilised to a much greater extent than it could forty or fifty years ago. You must have a national supply of fertilisers that the Government ought to take care to make available." What the farmer wants is cheap nitrogen, cheap phosphates, cheap potash, and all in plenty. The Government began a great factory for fixing nitrogen from the air, as the Germans did to get their explosives, but building difficulties stopped the project. As we do not produce enough sulphate of ammonia to meet both our home and export demands, the Board of Agriculture should insist on this factory being completed. It must also ensure a steady flow of phosphate rock from North Africa and increase the home output of basic slag. As to potash, the Alsace mines promise much in French hands and Germany could well be forced, as part of our compensation, to yield us for many years to come heavy tribute in potash from the Stassfurt deposits. There would be poetic justice if fertility were brought by German potash to our light lands which would never have been reclaimed but for German aggression making us alive to our neglected opportunities. Farmers will cherish the Prime Minister's promise of a national supply of fertilisers. Without them intensive production will be impossible.

THE NORTH SEA, NOVEMBER 15th, 1918.

Where are you going, oh, little, slim cruiser?

I am putting out to sea
With a great Fleet's destiny—
To surrender!
I've a Navy in my keeping,
Can't you hear the women weeping?
I leave mutiny behind me as I go.
We are beaten to our knees,
We are shamed on all the seas,
With our flag disgraced and fouled before the world.
See the chilly wintry skies
With mist have veiled their eyes,
So my passing may be hidden with my shame.
My flags are flying yet,
But between them stiffly set
Flies the white flag of surrender at the main.
Waiting squadrons, let me pass
And the water's looking-glass
Shall mirror my dishonour once again.
I've a great Fleet's destiny,
And I challenge all to see
My surrender!

M. G. MEUGENS.

ONE of the most hopeful bits of legislation passed in the Session just ended was the Land Drainage Act, and, by pressing this through, the Board of Agriculture did a real if unsensational service to farmers. Far too much land has gone out of cultivation or been used in a very uneconomic way for the lack of corporate action in areas subject to flooding. In the past, efforts to set up Drainage Boards were too easily defeated by local obstruction or apathy, but the Board of Agriculture is determined to remove this reproach and is surveying the country vigorously so that no hopeful area may be neglected. Specific schemes are also in hand for the reclamation of waste lands, and the presence of Sir Daniel Hall at the Board is guarantee enough that the work will be carried out in a scientific way. Where gorse can grow grass can flourish. Our agricultural botanists must make haste to develop a new range of indigenous grasses which will not disappear after a year in the disconcerting fashion of the many foreign herbage plants now sown in unrewarded faith. Above all, there is need for a great increase in the stocks of wild white clover seed, now at famine prices, and we must press also for improved and re-selected strains.

MR. MCADOO'S resignation from his great position as Secretary of the Treasury and Director-General of Railways in the United States is accompanied by a frank statement which is refreshing to hear in these days. He informed the President that it was necessary for him to get back to private life to retrieve his personal fortune for the sake of his family. Very seldom is a resignation accompanied by such a sincere explanation. Mr. McAdoo had only a little over £2,000 a year for filling the great office he held, and his

conduct has well entitled him to the praise of his father-in-law, President Wilson. "The country has never had a more able or resourceful and yet prudent and uniformly efficient Secretary of the Treasury." Before the war Mr. McAdoo was engaged in such a great enterprise as that of organising a company which expended £12,000,000 in connecting New York City with New Jersey, and now that the critical point in the war is over he will be of more service to his country in private life than in office. His action is a model for other officials.

AMONG the tasks which reclamation of the devastated country will impose on Frenchmen one of the most dangerous is that of removing unexploded shells. A great authority on the use of explosives says, in a private letter, that there is a very great difference in the length of life among shells and also in their penetration. If a shell without exploding has reached a depth of two or three feet it is practically harmless, but if less than that the engineers who are called upon to get rid of them will find the task not without danger. If a shell can be safely exposed it is easy to deal with it, but in digging there is always a danger of touching the fuse. On the other hand he thinks that the modern shell is not likely to remain so long a danger as some of the projectiles used in the War of 1870. It is recorded that some of these went off during the present war. He thinks that the modern fuse in an underground shell, if exposed for a long period to the damp inseparable from its burial in the open air, will be destroyed in less than twelve months. In the meantime the agriculturists will have to take great care to avoid these dangerous objects especially when using a tractor plough for a deep furrow. This is one case in which shallow ploughing will be advisable until the danger has passed away.

COMMERCIAL flying is in the way of being put on a business footing at last. That is the conclusion to be drawn from the report of the Civil Aerial Transport Committee, of which the *Times* has been able to publish the chief points, although it will not be printed until Parliament sits again in the New Year. Many interesting points have come up. When flying becomes commercial it will be necessary to define what rights the owner of land will have over the air above him. The Committee decided that, at any rate, there should be an assertion of the "sovereignty and rightful jurisdiction of the Crown over the air superincumbent on all parts of His Majesty's Dominions and the territorial waters adjacent thereto." In regard to private ownership of the air, the Committee came to the conclusion that it should be disallowed. They admit, however, that if property is injured by the falling of any article from aircraft the machine causing the damage should be responsible. Other points agreed upon were that speed is the most material factor, that stages should not be more than 500 miles apart, that night flying for the carriage of mails should be developed, and that as heavy loading will be necessary for commercial success the development of land and air brakes is necessary. They deal with the types of aircraft most suitable to commerce, inclining at present to the Handley Page, one of which recently flew over London with forty passengers, and the de Havilland type of large bomber. They are thus clearing the way for that flying service which must come in the immediate future.

MANY men who have completed their part in former campaigns have been veterans before they have received the service medal to which they were entitled. The numbers engaged in the late war were so vast, and the whole history of the fighting so different from what has gone before that the question of medals and bars will need to be looked at quite freshly. The old idea of a bar for every battle or important engagement is clearly impossible, else some men would trail them like a Rip Van Winkle beard. That, however, is a matter which no doubt the medals branch of the War Office has already thought of. A suggestion we should like to offer is that the Allies should unite in the granting of a service medal to all who served in any theatre of war. It should be possible to agree upon a design symbolising the struggle as a whole, and the casting and issuing of such a medal would be an unique mode of marking an unique event in history. If it seemed desirable the reverse side of the medal might be varied in the case of each nation. That would not interfere at all with the main purpose. In any event, such an Inter-Allied medal would be supplemented by a general service medal such as we are accustomed to. The chief difficulty would probably be to devise a medal ribbon which would not somewhere be confused with something else. Perhaps some of our readers who are better informed on this matter may tell

us whether or no plain white has yet been used for a service medal or decoration.

THE cessation of hostilities has already seen here and there a lowering of prices of some of the more costly sorts of commodities, and that for what it is worth is evidence if it were needed that prices have outrun the prime cost of material and manufacture. Now comes the statement that from April onwards considerably more than half the output of woollen textiles may be devoted to civilian trade. Until then there are obvious needs which the Government must meet, of which the clothing of discharged soldiers is an important one. It is greatly to be hoped that something very much better than the shoddy clothes and Bill Sykes type of neckerchief will be provided. The value of the clothes which discharged soldiers were formally entitled to was, we believe, 17s 6d, and poor scarecrows they looked in them. And here it may be worth while to urge that if the discharged man is to retain his uniform as a memento, it would be a valuable concession to allow him to keep as well his greatcoat, instead of it being returned to store. The greatcoat is the best part of the soldier's equipment and no really useful purpose is likely to be served by the Army Clothing Department recovering possession of several million of worn greatcoats.

A PROPOSAL has been made by a newspaper correspondent that where there are a group of houses to be built one of them should be set aside as a bath-house. Here the men and women of the village might for a very small sum enjoy the luxury of a hot bath when they wish. It is an excellent idea and no doubt would go to promote cleanliness in the village, because men and women who refused to have a bath would soon incur that rough, but not unkindly, ridicule which is a characteristic of the country, and ridicule above all else they are unable to stand. It would be enough for one of them to say that a person was "dirty, he or she never takes a bath" to bring the offender under moral force. On the same principle it would be a good thing to have village laundries; not laundries where washing is taken in, but where the wives and daughters could carry their soiled linen and other clothes and wash them themselves. These little arrangements would conduce very much to the comfort of the cottages.

THE GAMEKEEPER'S GIBBET.

Two stoats, a weasel, and a jay,
In varied stages of decay,
Are hanging on the gibbet tree
For all the woodland folk to see,
And tattered rags swing to and fro,
Remains of what was once a crow.
What were their crimes that when they died
The Earth was not allowed to hide
Their mangled corpses out of sight,
Instead of dangling in the light?
They didn't sin against the Law
Of "Nature red in tooth and claw,"
But 'gainst the edicts of the keeper
Who plays the part of Death the Reaper,
And doth with deadly gun determine
What creatures shall be classed as vermin.
Whether we gibbets find, or grace,
Depends on accident of place,
For what is vice in Turkestan
May be a virtue in Japan.

F. C. G.

LORD KNUTSFORD'S description of the village monument to be set up at the four cross roads in the little village of Knebworth seems to fulfil most of the conditions required for such memorials. The idea, indeed, is practically the same as that which was suggested by Sir Edwin Lutyens. A giant monolith will practically endure for all time to show the inscribed names of the heroes who fought and fell in the great war. This will meet a very deep and just popular sentiment. There are few things that would cause more regret than that oblivion should be allowed to scatter her poppies over the names of those who gallantly fought for their country in its day of direst need. It is a danger to which the village mind is peculiarly alive. These men came out from their obscurity with no hope of personal advantage. Only to a small proportion could fame afford a mention. Yet they did their duty well and nobly, and it is "meet and fair" that their posterity should be able to point to their names on the village memorial as those of men of whom their descendants ought to be proud.

THE PASSING OF THE GERMAN FLEET

BY ARTHUR POLLEN.

THE sketches which Mr. Bernard Gribble and Mr. Nelson Dawson contribute to COUNTRY LIFE to-day record, as only the sure touch of the artist can do, the last act in the great drama which opened in the month of August four years ago. At that time the rulers of Germany were driven—against their will and before their plans were completed—to the enormous adventure of trying conclusions with the sea power of Great Britain. This power they had long since determined some day to dethrone. The plan was not the obvious one, namely, to build a fleet of equal or greater strength and then by superior strategy, superior arms and skill in arms, superior tactics, spirit, courage and moral to challenge the British Fleet to battle and win the trident of sea sovereignty from us. It was nothing so simple or so direct. It was a plan to conquer the sea by first conquering her neighbours on land. With France and Russia crushed, Great Britain would see reason—or ruin. But we would not wait. And so a plan that was to have taken time had to be put into operation forthwith. Success turned on the perfection of the strategic scheme on land, and the rigour of its tactical execution.

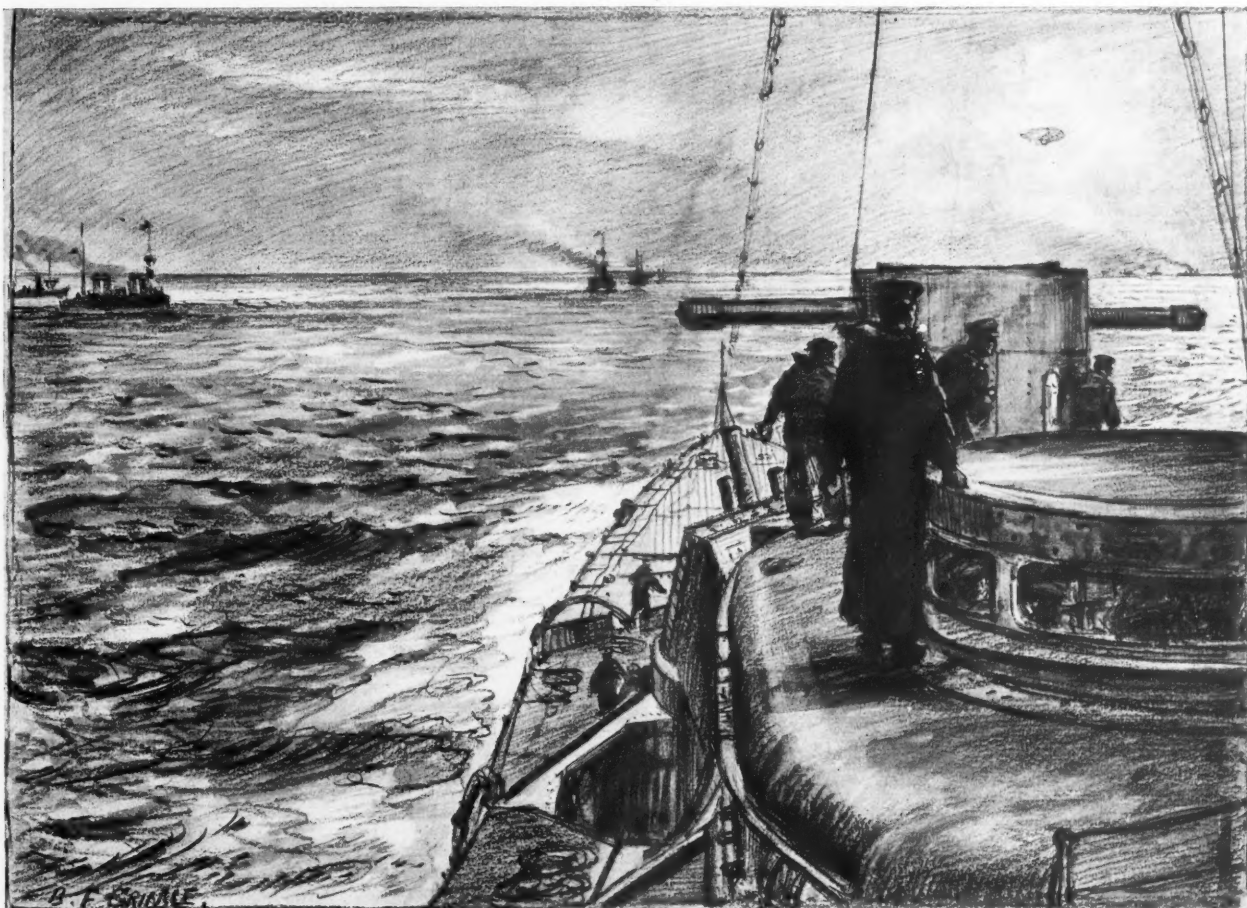
France, overwhelmed by a blow whose weight and pace would be irresistible, was to succumb before the leaves were off the trees. Russia, cut off from Europe by the closing of the Baltic and the Black Sea, would surrender as soon as the military power of the two Central Empires could be concentrated against her in her isolation. No course Great Britain took should, it seemed, affect the issue. Our Army would be too small to help in France. In six months no sea pressure by our Fleet could shorten the arm or weaken the blows of Austria and Germany's irresistible masses. Before the spring of 1915 final and overwhelming victory on land would reverse the sea position altogether.

For, observe, the surrender of France would, first, yield possession of all the Channel and Atlantic ports, give Germany a fair opening to the Atlantic and the open seas, and enfranchise her navy from the strangle-hold of a very weak geographical position. It would next yield a very welcome

naval reinforcement. At the opening of the war the British Fleet had, in the units of the greatest strength, only some 25 per cent. superiority over the German. The positions would have been more than reversed had France and Russia fallen. Six French and four Russian dreadnoughts, combined with Germany's original force would have made a force of overwhelming strength. But Germany's hopes of naval reinforcement would not have ended with the capture of our Allies' Fleets. For, though at that time Italy was and seemed destined to remain neutral, she was still a member of the Triple Alliance and, had the Central Powers triumphed, the pressure on her to rejoin her old associates would have been difficult to withstand. Thus to the captured French Fleet west of the Channel might have been added five Italian dreadnoughts with light cruisers and destroyers and the three completed Austrian ships of equal power. Apart, then, altogether from the German and Russian force in the North Sea, there would have been a second dreadnought fleet of fifteen or sixteen ships west of it. A British Fleet, superior to either of these singly, but hugely outnumbered, could they combine, would have been between them. The German plan probably would have been to send the Western Fleet north about and send the Eastern Fleet to make a rendezvous at some point north of Rosyth. The meeting would be timed to get the Grand Fleet caught between the two.

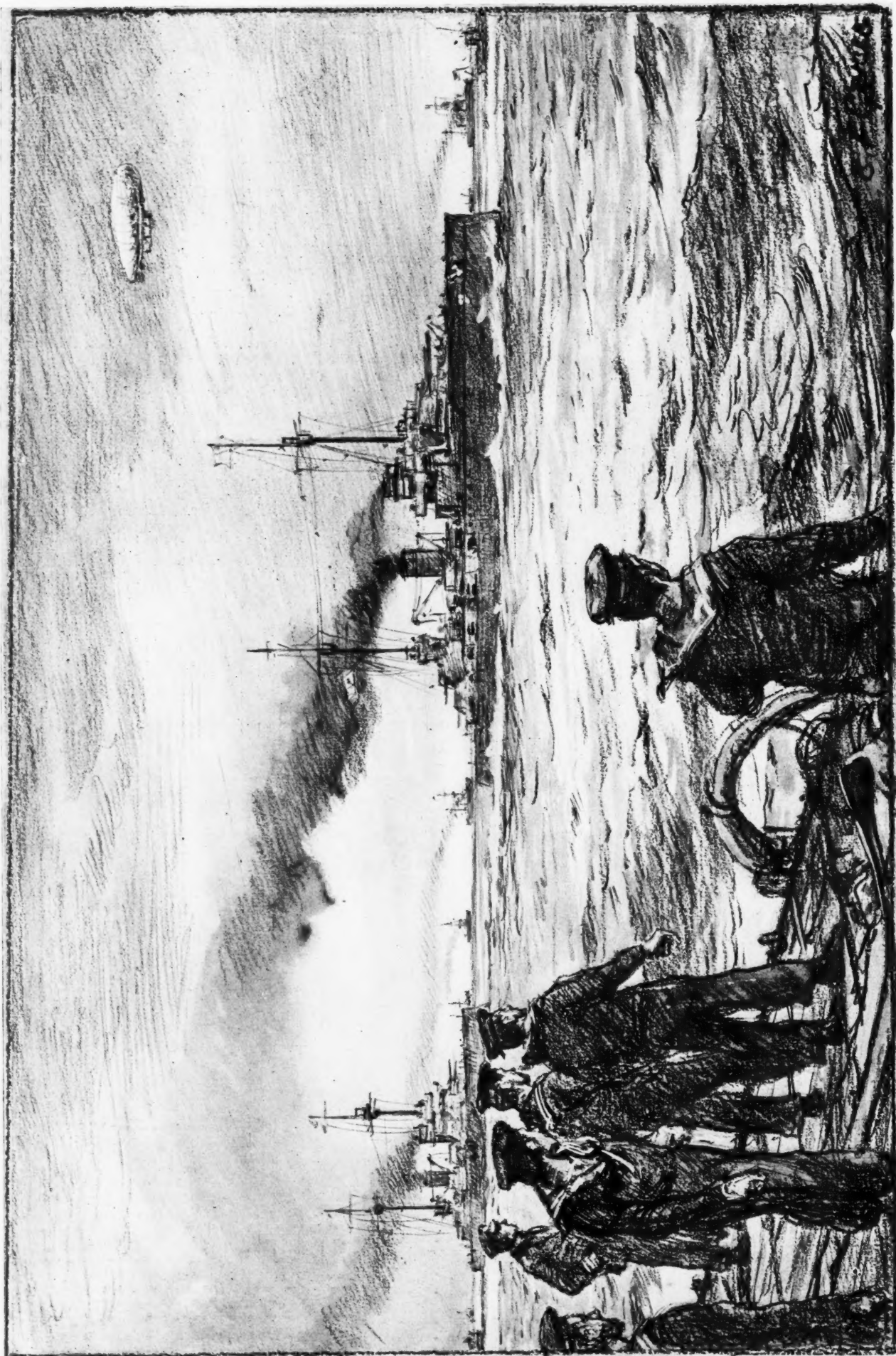
This—and no less than this—was the stake for which Germany was playing. But the game opened with the most shameless act of treachery in history, and that crime, first tainted, then infected, and has now rotted the whole guilty body politic. How the plan was frustrated is fresh in all our minds, and last week the men of the Grand Fleet looked on in silence while the first instalment of Germany's war debt was paid.

It is surely not without many solemn thoughts thronging to our minds that we look at the record of this great surrender and reflect on the forces that made the German plan miscarry. The straightforward, simple, obvious explanation of the failure we all know. Belgium, seemingly the least

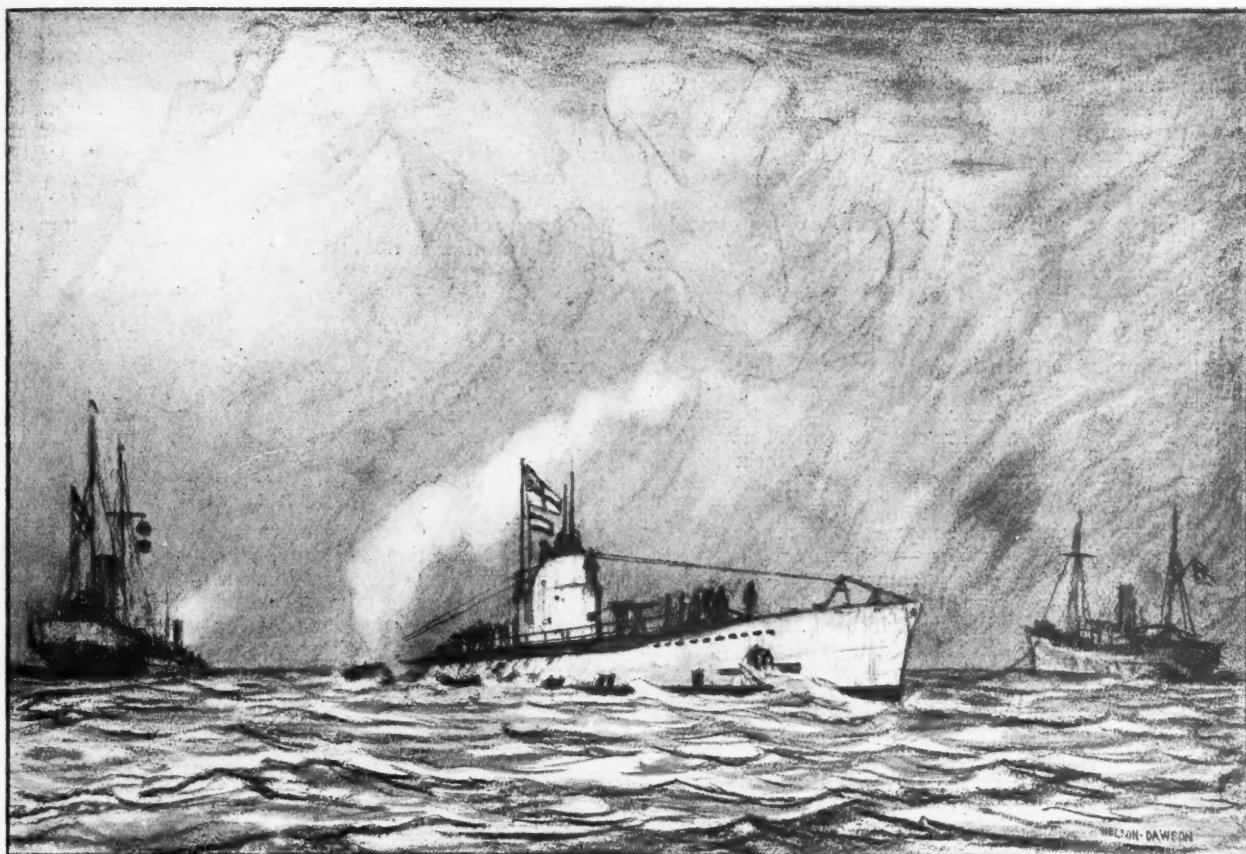


Specially drawn for "Country Life" by Bernard F. Gribble.

THE LION'S FIRST SIGHT OF THE SURRENDERING ENEMY.



THE SEYDLITZ AND THE MOLTKE IN THE VANGUARD OF THE CONQUERED FLEET.
Specially drawn for "Country Life" by Bernard F. Gribble.



Specially drawn for "Country Life" by Nelson Dawson, R.E.
A GERMAN SUBMARINE FLYING THE WHITE ENSIGN PASSING DOWN THE "LANE."

warlike of all countries, turned, like the stripling shepherd of sacred history, upon the giant. It was not for her to reap David's great reward. No single blow could be at once fatal to the Colossus in arms that advanced against her. But the resolute heroism of these feeble folk stayed Goliath's stride, and time was given for a little English Army—pitifully small in a war in which not men, but legions, were to be numbered

by the myriad—to reach its place in battle. The valour of Belgium was matched by France and her British Allies. The thrust that, from its weight and pace, should have been irresistible was dislocated, checked and then defeated. The miracle of the Marne shattered the whole plan.

From then on, of course, sea power determined the rest of the campaign. Germany was never able to obtain naval



Specially drawn for "Country Life" by Nelson Dawson, R.E.
A LINE OF SURRENDERED SUBMARINES IN HARWICH HARBOUR.

equality and, for an unequal war, she lacked the qualities that have enabled nations with a finer genius for fighting to struggle gallantly and successfully. Maddened by impotence and failure, she then tried to do by murder and assassination what she had neither the courage nor the wit to do by force. A nation trained, as no other nation was, to the doctrine of war, set itself to the criminal futility of trying to win at sea without sea victory! The method chosen has brought a double punishment. It was a method that declared war on all the world, and gradually, slowly, but inevitably all the world finally realised its character, so that nation after nation took the course which national honour, no less than loyalty to the Christian tradition of humanity, prescribed. The first penalty paid by Germany for her sea crimes was, then, the armed hostility of many more nations than at first she intended to attack. The second was that the degradation she brought upon her flag at sea, first debased and then demoralised the spirit and character of her seamen. And in the result the German navy failed its country altogether when, within the last six months, there came two crises, in either of which its intervention might have been decisive.

The great campaign of last spring—Germany's last, but not unhopeful, stroke for victory—originated on March 31st, and needed one element only to ensure success: it was that the man power of the Allies should not be reinforced. Could the German fleet have raided the British Channel and, if only for a fortnight or three weeks, held up the reinforcements pouring into France from the very outset of the reverse, this might have been a determining factor. For without the men sent in those first three weeks the blows that followed the thrust for Amiens might have been driven, not home, but through. And when finally the German attack failed and a second battle of the Marne repeated the miracle of the first,

there was once more but a single thing that could prevent this failure being converted into an immense and immediate defeat. Could the German fleet, or at least its faster and powerful units, the five battle cruisers, have gained the Atlantic, would it not have been possible for them so to have harried and destroyed the American convoys that the Allies would have lacked the 50,000 men a week that were so great a factor in bringing about the final victory? It was an astonishing abstention. Could British seamen have sat idly by with the destiny of the nation in the balance? Is it to be supposed that the men whom Roger Keyes led to certain death at Zeebrugge would have hesitated to fight a naval action against any odds if by it they could add the smallest element to their country's safety? But guilt and shame do not consort with the lofty spirit and high chivalry needed for sea war, and the German seamen, branded by their masters with the mark of Cain, failed them in the hour of trial.

When, then, we look upon these pictures and reflect that the conquering strength of Britain at sea has now the German fleet in pawn, shall we not attribute this great victory less to numbers and mass and strength of material, and more to the greatness of the cause to which the men who animated these vast machines were each and all devoted? Shall we not see in this last sea triumph the glory, not only of British arms at sea, but something of the crazy valour of Belgium's hopeless fight, something of the grim and skilled tenacity of the heroes on the Mons retreat, something of the splendour of the French fighting spirit? For, without these things, the German fleet, surrendered to us because it would not fight, might easily have been a fleet half as strong again as our own. If our Navy has truly made this last great victory possible, the unflinching courage of our Army and of our Allies did much to prevent its task being made almost beyond its strength.

IN THE GARDEN

BLACK CURRANTS.

AT this time of the year and all through the winter months we appreciate the full value of Black Currant jam. In many a cottager's home the careful wife makes a special effort to keep a pot or two of Black Currant jam in reserve, however slender the store may be, for there is no other jam so much in demand, especially for children, when colds are about. It may be an old-fashioned remedy, but no one will gainsay that Black Currant hot drink at bedtime is one of the best known cures for a cold. There are other ways in which the supplies of this useful commodity are all too readily depleted, and the man has yet to be born who could resist a Black Currant tartlet on a cold winter morning. The supply of Black Currant jam never was, and never will be, equal to the demand.

Oddly enough, the Black Currant is one of the most neglected of fruits in gardens. The bushes are almost invariably relegated to some out of the way corner of the garden. More often than not they are left unpruned, unmanured and uncared for, with the result that the bushes grow old and worn out, falling a prey to the big-bud disease, which is ever on the increase where the bushes are neglected. If we expect good crops, we must be prepared to put good work into the ground and to give proper treatment to the bushes.

A Moisture Loving Crop.—Anyone who has, in the happy summers of bygone years, spent a holiday on the Norfolk Broads cannot have failed to notice the Black Currants growing luxuriantly along the river banks with their toes in water. These Black Currants probably originated as seedlings, and mark the spot where wherries or other boats had moored. The Black Currant loves moisture; it is, within reason, a crop for the wettest part of the garden. Not only should the soil be moist, it should also be rich and cool, and I know of nothing better than cow-manure well incorporated with the soil before planting, or applied as a surface dressing to established plants bins. deep all over the beds if it can be spared. The mulch may be applied now or as soon as pruning is completed, with beneficial results. When planting—and this is the best time of the year for the work—make the holes large enough for the roots to be spread out evenly, and see that the bottom of the hole is raised in the centre—not concave, which is an all too common error in planting. Never plant Black Currants with a leg (that is, a single main stem, as in the case of the Gooseberry), for the nearer the crutch is to the ground the better are the chances of getting new branches, which are essential if the bushes are to continue healthy and profitable. After planting, tread down the soil and prune the bush if necessary; then give a soaking with water, and remember that the heavier the soil the greater is the necessity for watering, as it is next to impossible to get heavy soil in close contact with

the fine rootlets. The bushes should be planted in rows about 5ft. apart each way. When an orchard is planted, it is quite a good plan to grow Black Currants or other bush fruits, such as Red Currants and Gooseberries, between the rows of Apples, Pears and Plums. The bush fruits will crop the first year after planting and give quick returns. By the time the permanent trees are large enough to occupy the whole space the bush fruits are dug up and burnt.

Pruning.—The Black Currant fruits entirely on the young wood; that is to say, the shoots are made one year and fruit the next. Young sucker growths that spring from the base of the plants should be encouraged and must not be pruned. The aim in pruning should be to retain all the young wood possible and to cut away the old wood. In some counties the plan is followed of cutting the old wood clean down to the base every second year. This means sacrificing much of the fruit the first year after pruning. The object of this drastic pruning is to keep down the ravages of the big-bud disease. It is certainly not a cure, for we have often noticed the new wood develop big-bud as it grows. Where this method of severe pruning is followed it should be applied to alternate trees, so that there is less risk of a serious shortage of fruit in any one season.

Big-Bud Disease.—Sad to relate, this troublesome pest is again rampant in all parts of the country. The bushes should be examined now, and, after pruning, the diseased buds on the remaining branches should be picked off. All buds and prunings must, of course, be burnt immediately. If everyone will do his best to eradicate this pest he will confer a benefit on the community. As with silver-leaf in Plums, so with big-bud in Black Currants, there can be no infallible cure until legislation is brought in to deal with these pests. The loss to the country through slowness on the part of the governing body to recognise the need for legislation is so great that, put into actual figures, it would appal not only outsiders but many who are within the ranks of horticulture. It is worth noting that by close watchfulness and frequent spraying it is possible to keep the bushes clear of this disease. Until a few years ago no reliable remedy was known for this serious pest, but Messrs. Pearsons of Lowdham, Notts, have cleared their bushes of this insidious disease by the following method: Use 2oz. of soft soap and 4oz. of quassia chips to one gallon of water (soft for preference). Steep the chips in cold water for some hours; then bring the water to boiling point and simmer for twenty minutes until the bitter principle is extracted. Dissolve the soap in a separate vessel and mix with the quassia liquor while warm. When hard water is used care must be taken, or the soap will curdle if too hot or too cold. Use the best quality of soft soap. The mites are generally migrating from the end of March to the end of May; that is, as soon as the leaves open and onwards. At that time the mites are specially open to attack, and spraying should be continued during that season at intervals

of about ten days. When once the mites are ensconced in the new buds, it is useless to attack them.

Varieties.—Among the best are Seabrook's Black, Lee's Prolific, Boskoop Giant, Laxton's Blacksmith, Baldwin's and Black Naples. Of six varieties grown in the writer's garden on heavy soil, the only one which has not been attacked by big-bud is Seabrook's Black, and I am told that this is the only variety free from disease at Wisley on light soil. Seabrook's Black is, I believe, the only variety that can at all resist disease, and for this reason it is being largely planted by market growers.

H. C.

MEMORANDA ON SETTLEMENT OF SOLDIERS

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

The Board of Agriculture can move in three ways:

(a) *More Farm Colonies* which will serve to train men, as to the need of which the Prime Minister spoke at Wolverhampton.

(b) *More Small Holdings.*—The County Council Small Holdings Committees should be strengthened and spurred on

to select good estates at once. The Resettlement Department of the Board of Agriculture has a difficult task before it, and it is not easy to see how the admirable machinery of the existing Agricultural Executive Committees can be used, because they are not Committees of the County Councils on whom the law has placed the duty of supplying small holdings, but Committees nominated by the Board of Agriculture. It requires skill and statesmanship to link up two different sorts of organisation. The Agricultural Executive Committees are swift and competent, but they are undemocratic. The County Council Committees are slow and more amenable to local pressure because they belong to an elected body. The Board should set up a Building Department to assist the County Councils by providing them with plans, getting priorities for building materials, and seeing that they do not launch out into extravagances as they will be liable to do if the Government gives a big grant to enable the small holdings to be established at once.

(c) *Cottages for Farm Labourers.*—Some Department must provide these with an acre of land, a pigsty and a shed, and the Agricultural Executive Committees are the best people to say where they are most needed and how many. The Board of Agriculture might handle them as though they were a new sort of small holdings, the County Councils actually building them, but more probably they will fall into the general scheme of National Housing.

THE LATEST HOUSING REPORT

“**W**ITHOUT some dynamic force, it is unlikely that the 1905 standard of 100,000 houses per annum will be reached, and little or nothing done to recover the shortage of 500,000 houses. . . . Unless there is some supreme guiding direction, the shortage of houses for some years after the war will increase rather than diminish. . . . A strong Housing Department with an experienced and capable chief commissioner should be created.” With these sound recommendations Sir Tudor Walters' Committee on the Provision of Working Class Dwellings open their illuminating Report on the nation's biggest single problem. Incidentally, they confirm the policy for which we have been pressing, now accepted, it would seem, by the Prime Minister. “Housing,” he said on Saturday last, “has got to be undertaken in a way never undertaken before, as a great national charge and duty. It is too much to leave it to municipalities merely. . . . the housing of the people must be a national concern.”

The only way in which the national character of the work can be established is by the setting up of a Housing Ministry, or of a semi-independent Housing Department. It must be equipped with such powers as are needed, if it is to fight for adequate finance and for every sort of priority in the never-ending Battle of Whitehall. The Committee devotes the major part of its Report to technical questions, such as sites, lay-out, accommodation and planning of cottages, organisation of building, etc., and everyone should spend the needful shilling to secure it (No. Cd. 9191). We will deal first with the larger questions of policy and practice which are raised. No body, whether local authority or public utility society, can build without first acquiring land. The legislation under which compulsory acquisition is achieved is cumbersome and slow. Mr. Leslie Scott's Committee has invented a Sanctioning Authority, a House of Commons body, but has yet to report on the terms on which the land will be acquired, and that is the crux of the question. The Tudor Walters Report reminds us that many building estates were laid out before the war, but their owners, many of them speculators, will be able neither to finance nor organise house building, and there must be long wrangles and delays before any scheme for private development could be agreed. Some way of acquiring such estates must be invented, and the price must be a fair one that the public can pay. Much land will, no doubt, be offered freely by owners, but there must be an organisation that will save local authorities from paying too much and so burdening unduly both the Treasury and the local rates. The Central Housing Department might, as the Committee suggests, be vested with special powers to ensure simple and speedy acquisition, but that means legislation and some delay.

In the case of urban schemes some loss of time is inevitable. As we pointed out last week, town planning must precede house building, and practically nothing has been done. Successful town planning involves cheap land—you cannot build twelve

cottages to the acre on land costing £1,200 an acre—and cheap land is distant land and means transport by tram or light railway. This also cannot be improvised in a month. Housing and transport in urban and suburban districts must be considered as one problem or the community will not secure the advantages of the great developments for which the public purse pays. Mr. Lloyd George laid stress at Wolverhampton on this conjunction of essentials, and we await his further development of the idea by administrative action.

All the facts suggest that the first attack on the housing problem should be in rural districts, not only because the administrative difficulties are less, but because the need is greater. The Tudor Walters Report lays stress on what everyone knows, namely, that rural housing is certain to be neglected because of the difficulty of creating a sufficiently strong local opinion to make the authorities act. This may be solved by taking the duty from the Rural District Councils and laying it on the County Councils. There is now fairly general agreement that this is essential to success. The Report recommends that the new Housing Department shall act in the country through District Commissioners, whose duty it would be to stimulate every cottage building agency, co-ordinate effort and act as local arbiters so that swift decisions could be made in all difficulties that tended to delay. They would have powers to brush away hampering by-laws, stimulate land purchase, watch the supply of materials, co-ordinate prices and methods of contracting, superintend and approve designs, and generally do a thousand things which in times past have involved laborious correspondence with Whitehall. Such officials would have their task infinitely lightened if they had to do with a single council instead of a score or more in a county.

Turning to the more technical part of the Report, we take legitimate pride in seeing that the Committee has adopted as the “desirable minimum sizes of rooms” the scale of the larger cottage laid down in our National Cottage Competition of 1914 and already given official sanction by the Rural Housing Committee of the Board of Agriculture. But the Report goes a little further in recommending strongly that all cottages should also have a parlour wherever possible. In our competition some of the county types were parlour cottages, but the general feeling then was that economic difficulties forbade their general adoption. The Agricultural Wages Board is on the way to solve the problem of the economic rent, though it has far to go yet. We are satisfied that cottages to be built now and to be lived in for eighty years or more must have accommodation above the irreducible minimum. As the Committee wisely says, the scarcity is not of the smallest type of house—there are too many of them, certainly enough to house the childless couples—but rather of good houses adequate in size, equipment and amenity.

The Government, in building for the England that is to be, must set up a standard that the future race will accept. Any feeble policy will recoil on its authors' heads and, instead of proving economical, will prove extravagant in the long run of the century to come.

TRANSPORT & COTTAGE BUILDING

THE USE OF LOCAL MATERIAL.

THE Report recently issued by the Committee appointed by the Ministry of Reconstruction on the position of building materials after the war calls special attention to the necessity of preventing unnecessary transport. The greater utilisation of local resources to supply local needs is becoming more important, and the very serious position with regard to the shortage of building materials can be very greatly relieved by the use of local materials and utilising to the utmost all suitable materials which are at hand.

The establishment of a Central Building Industry Committee which will be composed of architects, civil engineers, employers of operatives, building material manufacturers and merchants, together with the Regional Committees, should help the matter very considerably, and we are glad to observe that the Regional Committees suggested by the Committee on Building Industry After the War are to take all necessary steps to foster and stimulate the production of the building resources of the country and of all descriptions of materials required for such industry. These are the proper lines to work on, and it is hoped that these building committees will have freely placed at their disposal the services of a properly qualified chemist and other technical men, and that such services will be fully utilised.

The Local Government Board Report on the question of building construction in connection with the provision

of dwellings points out that 300,000 cottages, if built in the usual way, would require 620,000,000 roofing tiles and 233,000,000 roofing slates. Surely materials can be found in many districts suitable for roofing without having to transport these enormous quantities to the districts where local materials are procurable.

The timber required for the same number of houses would come to 432,000 standards, apart from that required for windows, doors, dressers, staircases, skirtings, etc. As in pre-war days most of our timber for building work was imported, the necessity for finding more local material as a substitute cannot be too strongly advocated. Practically 6,000,000,000 bricks and tiles would be required for the 300,000 cottages mentioned above, involving a terrific ton mileage of transport, and this is only a small part of the building programme necessary for the whole of the country. This appeal, therefore, should be very carefully considered by all parties responsible for any class of buildings, and the greatest efforts possible should be put forward to reduce the unnecessary freightage and every endeavour should be made in all cases to construct our buildings with materials that we have actually at hand. It would be interesting to investigate the reason for the bad habit of thinking it is necessary to import material from comparatively long distances. Is it that we have concentrated our attention on very large and expensive plant to economically manufacture or pre-treat Nature's resources

before they are transposed into proper and suitable condition for actual use by man? Is it not possible that the manufacture or pre-treatment of material suitable for building can be carried out economically by more decentralisation, with the obvious results that we should obtain buildings of a more suitable design and greater artistic merit? Is it not possible to make the programme a real architectural education by the employment of good architecture? This would give us more hygienic and comfortable homes.

Certain objections have been raised with regard to the use of what is known in some districts as "cob" walling. The fact that these buildings have remained in good condition, in many cases for hundreds of years, clearly shows that the material is suitable for building work. That it has certain objections from other points of view may be, as at present used, true, but there seems to be no reason why, with modern knowledge, the disadvantages attached to this material should not be overcome, the same as they have been overcome in other materials, and could be rendered a suitable and proper material for everyday use in building construction. With pre-treatment and modification in its composition and application by the use of modern machinery it should be possible to take the greatest advantage of all local materials at hand. There is no doubt that a well built cob house is one of the most comfortable dwellings possible to live in—warm in winter, cool in summer.

Can it be called satisfactory building to take facing



DEVON COUNTRY HOUSE, BUILT OF DEVON COB.



A DEVONSHIRE FARM, LOCAL MATERIAL.

bricks from Surrey to Newcastle, or can it be considered satisfactory to import millions of pounds worth of timber annually when other satisfactory materials can be obtained locally? The huge deposits of sand, clay, chalk and other materials should not be allowed to remain unproductive for building work. There are at present thousands of different schemes for additional housing, and unless very strong steps are taken and the enthusiastic and intelligent support of the local authorities obtained, one can imagine the many disastrous results that will be a blot on the landscape.

There must be something radically wrong with the development of our natural resources to find it necessary, either for cheapness or other reasons, to take bricks from Peterborough all over the country as we have been doing for a number of years and, in many instances, getting the most unsatisfactory results. In going through our rural districts there is nothing more charming than the old cottage buildings, where the local materials have been properly utilised. What greater contrast is required to emphasise this than some of the illustrations in this article? It is astonishing that such examples are allowed to be erected as that illustrated above the heading of a "modern building," put right on the roadside in a rural district.

The transport of building materials as carried out in pre-war days is enormous. It is necessary that our housing programme should be proceeded with at the earliest date possible, and our railways will for years be short of rolling stock and the transport facilities will be deficient. It cannot be too strongly impressed upon those in charge of the housing programme to give every possible consideration to the reduction of unnecessary transport. It is not necessary to appeal to architects for support in this, as obviously every architect would freely acknowledge that if local materials are or can be made available it gives a much more interesting architectural result, and it is the desire of every architect to foster the local traditions; while no one is more desirous than architects of making the additional housing necessary in our rural district harmonise with the surroundings.

Architects can, however, do a very great service at the present time by advocating the true architectural spirit when discussing the housing problems with the authorities



THREE DEVON FARMHOUSES, PROBABLE AGE BETWEEN 200 AND 300 YEARS. COMPARE THESE WITH ANY MODERN BRICK FARM BUILDINGS THE READER KNOWS.

they are working with on the large building programmes which are bound to be undertaken in the near future. A special appeal is made to local authorities to do their utmost to make the housing scheme of added interest to the country and one which the country as a whole will be proud of in years to come. It is necessary for a very strong line to be taken if we wish to avoid the building schemes being carried out in such a way that many of our urban and rural districts are entirely ruined. As in many other cases, it may prove to be a mercy that we are really short of certain building materials which in the past have been looked upon as necessities in all districts irrespective of what materials are at hand to take their place.

Let us hope that the money previously spent on unnecessary and very ugly so-called ornamentation will be spent on fitting up the homes to make them more comfortable and more truly useful. An economical and useful cottage need not be ugly, and the greater use of local materials would be the first



A COB BUILT VILLAGE —



—AND THE ALTERNATIVE—A MODERN BUILDING.

step forward to automatically eliminate such ugliness.

The treatment of available materials in various districts should be most carefully studied from the artistic and scientific point of view, and, if this is carefully done, it will in time be possible to produce satisfactory material of great efficiency on an economical basis.

The planning of cottages has a very material effect upon the health of the community and also upon the architectural result of the scheme, and it is regretted that even in 1917 plans were put forward by one of our Government authorities, as suggestions to the local authorities, which show the same unsatisfactory planning which has unfortunately been in force for many years in some of our urban and rural districts.

The Report issued by the Women's Housing

Sub-Committee (Ministry of Reconstruction) gives some very excellent advice, and we are glad to see that they are advocating wider frontage and the elimination of that very ugly and unsanitary arrangement "the back projection."

A SCHEME FOR SOLDIERS' SETTLEMENTS

NO item in the Coalition manifesto has been more heartily endorsed than that relating to the national duty to provide a settlement for such of our ex-Service men as wish to work out their salvation on the land. But to ensure success a great deal more is needed than finding land and a dwelling, though more may not be needed for such as were engaged in similar work when called up. Those who went from small-holdings or were engaged in poultry farming, pig-keeping, dairying or any other form of *petite culture*, will find their feet at once. A sound scheme must, however, put the average man in the way of earning his livelihood, the man, namely, who is reasonably healthy and industrious but has had no previous experience of cultivation. His main qualification must be the simple one that he prefers the open-air life to that of the shop, office or factory. The two essentials required may be shown in two main groups consisting of

- (a) Subjects pertaining to the successful growing of crops.
- (b) Subjects pertaining to a satisfactory disposal of the produce.

The former may be subdivided into

- (1) What must be done for him.
- (2) What he must be taught to do for himself.

Let us assume, as will probably be the case, that the County Councils are entrusted with the task of giving practical form to the project. In that case those most successful with

small-holdings in the past will have to make radical changes. Take, for example, Cambridgeshire, which has developed a most successful system; but success was largely due to care in choosing for the holdings men highly qualified to work them. If a man of character, experience and the required capital gets a start, that is all he asks for. There is no need to arrange for his agricultural education or training in practice. But these must be prime considerations with a majority of candidates from the citizen army. The preliminary duties must be in reference to

(a) Land.—This should be light and at the same time fertile. It should be light in order that it may be accessible and workable under all conditions of weather, even the very worst; and fertile so that the beginner may be encouraged by obtaining early and satisfactory results. The best silt land of East Anglia is ideal for the purpose, but here and there a tract nearly as good may be found in nearly all counties.

(b) This land should be acquired, if possible, in a great block, so that small-holdings may be established in colonies with a central model farm for training and teaching.

(c) Each holding should be fenced, drained and provided with a cottage. There must also be at least one outbuilding capable of being adapted to the needs of the holder. Generally speaking, he may be trusted to do that himself so as to suit his predilections in the way of livestock. In many cases there will already be on the property large outbuildings which with a little ingenuity may be, by a partition here and gate there, made to do for several holders.

In the most central position, consistent with other arrangements, there should be a model farm. This the Council should not regard as a show-place, but as a model of successful management, and as a teaching centre where the aspirant can learn his job. Nothing is more educative to a beginner than to see that land exactly like his own can be made to earn a regular profit. At first he may attribute the result to this, that or the other reason, but, as at the beginning he may have to work at it like an ordinary farm hand, he will soon get to understand the real key of success. With the man of mature years and very little learning, education has to be practical. He will soon pick up the methods of working while he is at his task on the farm. The staff of the farm should be chosen for their intelligence, and each instructed to answer questions asked him by the novice. Those who are quick to show efficiency should be established on their own account. Later on, when he has got into his own little homestead, the holder should be encouraged to put in every spare hour at the central farm—of course, on a just and agreed rate of pay.

The central farm will serve other purposes, such as:

(1) It will provide horses and machinery at a fixed tariff to those who do not own these essentials to farming themselves. It would not pay the tenant of twenty, thirty or forty acres to buy the ploughs, harrows, mowers and reapers needed for his small crops, or even to keep the horses necessary to drag them. In ordinary practice he hires these from a neighbouring farmer. This is not a satisfactory arrangement, because he cannot always

A MIRAGE IN THE DESERT

THE remarkable photograph which we print on this page and the letter accompanying it will, we are sure, evoke the lively interest of all who have themselves had experience of the fantastic way in which Nature delights sometimes to "play at fairies." The commonest type of mirage is the tantalising vision of a cool lake seen in the midst of a hot and sandy desert. At sea mirage is often observed, especially in northern latitudes, and takes the form of ships or icebergs. The scientific explanation is, of course, that old school-day friend—refraction. The phantom horsemen and their team seen by Mr. Hillen was not however inverted, and the explanation of this may lie in what he tells of a double reflection of the image of the team in the valley. It will be interesting to hear what our scientific readers have to say.

Sir,—I think, perhaps, you may like to publish the accompanying photograph, taken in the Amargossa Desert of Nevada, near Death Valley. I was returning from a trip to the Gold Bar Mine, near Bullfrog, and in an effort to get to Bullfrog before the storm broke (which in that area is frequently distinguished by waterspouts that flood the desert for a few hours and do much damage) was making haste to get under cover when the mirage appeared. Looking over my shoulder I saw what appeared to be a twenty-horse team in the clouds and the driver on the wheel-horse raised his arm and struck the leaders with his whip.

Such an occurrence being altogether unusual caused me to stop my pony, and it occurred to me that a photograph might be taken. I drove



THE GHOSTLY, SILENT TEAM.

get the machinery when it is needed, and individual farmers vary much in their charges. The central farm would keep sufficient draught animals and machinery to serve the uses of the small-holders and let them out at a fixed tariff. After the advantage of this method has been realised the small-holders may possibly choose to form a co-operative association and supply their own machinery.

(2) The central farm would also buy seed corn, seed potatoes, feeding stuffs and artificial manures sufficient for the needs of the whole colony. Each holder would be able to obtain what he needed at cost price. This again is an introduction to the methods of the co-operative society, towards the establishment of which the movement should be directed.

(3) At the beginning it would be found that a proportion of the holders were sceptical about the value of chemical manures and of the return in produce as compared with the outlay. The central farm would best overcome this prejudice, first by inviting a close attention to the results gained on ordinary fields and experimental plots, and, secondly, by urging the holders to experiment on their own account. Experience has shown that even the cultivator who begins with incredulity very soon appreciates the importance and profit of using artificials. The experience of co-operative societies who deal in them is almost invariably that the demand shows an annual growth.

(4) The central farm should have departments for teaching those who show a special faculty for intensive gardening, tomato growing or kindred pursuits.

the pony hastily to my hotel, three-quarters of a mile distant, secured a camera and came out and fixed it for an instantaneous picture. By this time the cloud effect was very beautiful, the whole sky being flooded from the west behind the cloud-bank by gold and crimson light from the setting sun. There was a strong possibility that with the camera I was using no picture outlining the mirage could be secured on account of the distance, for I have frequently made efforts under normal conditions to get a photograph at 100yds. to 200yds. without result on account of the haze. On developing the photograph the team, however, was quite perceptible, and both under a magnifying glass and on lantern slides shown on a screen the whole team of twenty horses, the front of the wagon, as well as the driver on the wheel-horse and the "swamper" sitting on the front seat are distinctly seen. Distinguished scientists who have seen this picture explain the appearance of the mirage in a perfectly natural manner. The actual team was 125 miles away in Death Valley, which is 200ft. to 300ft. below sea level. The point from which the picture was taken in Amargossa Desert is between 4,000ft. and 5,000ft. above sea level.

The Funeral Range, which appears in the middle of the foreground, is from 6,000ft. to 7,000ft. above sea level, while to the west of Death Valley, which is a narrow depression in the earth's crust, some fifteen miles in width at that point, lies Telescope Peak, with a level from 11,000ft. to 12,000ft. above the sea. It is assumed that the team being in the southern portion of Death Valley, and going into the Valley, was reflected in the clouds at, or near, the summit of Telescope Peak, and mirrored across the intervening space, probably 100 miles, to the cloud-bank forming in the Amargossa Desert, from which point the picture was taken. This photograph has been copyrighted and all rights are reserved.—A. G. HILLEN.



COMPTON BEAUCHAMP is a gem privily set in a bosky lap of the bare chalk downs where they meet the fertile flats of the White Horse Vale. It is a pearl of price combining in high degree amenity of position with architectural excellence and charm of lay out. The wayfarer along the by-road that leads from Shrivenham to Lambourne, just as he mounts the first rise from the lush meadows, finds to his left an avenue of elms and to his right a short, double row of giant limes (Fig. 4) leading from an outer gate to a choice grille and clairvoyée, through which (Fig. 1) is seen a small but stately elevation in the most classic manner of Queen Anne's time. Tall central block and lower wings, pilasters and balustrade, sash-windows and flat roof, proclaim the triumph of the manner that nearly a century before had been the result of Inigo Jones' classic studies and Italian journeys as embodied in the Whitehall Banqueting House. The inroad upon native convention and habit had progressed slowly, but when the country squire who owned this out-of-the-way Berkshire manor decided to graft the new style upon the old, the school of designers who took Palladio and Inigo Jones as their models were fully fashionable. It is rare to find so finished an example of their manner on so modest a scale and associated

with so much, in building and in site, that is typical of a much more ancient social order—of a time when water was used as a defence and not as an amenity, when gable and high-pitched roof, arched door and mullioned window, projecting chimney breast and tall shaft were the characteristics of the English home. On three sides of Compton Beauchamp the building, despite later sashing, rises almost mediævally from its defensive moat, and even on the north or classic side the moat stretches a line of historic continuity between the stately elevation and elegant forecourt of the early eighteenth century designer.

Never the home of a person of importance, Compton Beauchamp is a place of few annals. Yet enough record survives to enable us to realise how it grew up and was altered, how it was lived in and made to meet succeeding wants. Although for a short while numbered among the possessions of the monks of Abingdon, this little combe township passed into lay hands before the advent of the Normans, being held of the King by Almar under the Confessor and by Ausculf under the Conqueror. Hence through the Pagnells the manor passed to the Somerys, under whom it was held, in the time of Henry III, by William de Beauchamp. His wife was sister and heiress of the last of the Mauduit Earls



of Warwick, whose lands and title went to her son. The Somery overlordship of Compton ceases, and it is held directly of the King by the Earls of Warwick until they become submerged under the disastrous flood of the Roses War. But it was among the least important of their great possessions, and the Oketon family were their feudal tenants here during the fourteenth century. After the fall of the Warwick family

finds that one Adam Fettiplace of Oxford was imprisoned in 1232 "for beating and wounding Clerks of the Oxford Schools." As a youthful townsman he no doubt took active part in the broils between town and gown that have only finally ended in our own day. But he grew up not to break but to administer the law, for, from 1245 onward he often held the Oxford Mayoralty. In 1263 he bought the manor



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THE SOUTH AND WEST SIDES.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

under Edward IV, a Sir Robert Shottesbrook appears as owner, but his tenure was short, as it was acquired by a cadet of an important neighbouring family. Throughout Tudor and Stewart times there was no more far-spread and influential knightly family in the area where Berkshire and Oxfordshire are contiguous than the Fettiplaces, whose intricate pedigrees have recently been carefully compiled by Mr. Dunlop. He

of North Denchworth in Berkshire, where his descendants remained, and from whom descended Thomas Fettiplace, Sheriff of Berkshire in 1435, and lord of the manor of East Shefford, which lies a little to the south of Lambourne as Compton Beauchamp does to the north. His elder sons are described respectively as of Stokenchurch and of Maidencourt, and it is John, the third and youngest, who comes to own



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FORECOURT AND AVENUE FROM THE ENTRANCE DOOR.

·COUNTRY LIFE.



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THE MEETING OF THE TUDOR AND THE CLASSIC WORK.

·COUNTRY LIFE.



EDWARD RICHARD'S BUILDING FILLING IN THE NORTH END OF THE COURT.



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IN THE COURT.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

calls him "of Compton," that must be presumed to have been his chief estate, but there is no sign that he altered or enlarged the house of which the existing features appear to belong either to the sixteenth or eighteenth centuries. It is probable that its owners made little or no use of it from the death of Lady Englefield in 1570 until it came to Edward Richards in 1694.

When he died in 1649 Sir Francis Pile left young daughters, of whom the eldest wedded Sir Francis Holles in 1672. He was son to that Denzil Holles who in 1629 held Speaker Finch in the chair when the latter attempted to obey the King's order and adjourn the House of Commons. Though strongly hostile to the Court in the Long Parliament, Holles quarrelled with the Independents and fled abroad in 1648. At the Restoration he was made a peer and a privy councillor, his son also obtaining a baronetage. Soon after the latter succeeded to the peerage in 1680 his wife, the Compton Beauchamp heiress, died, but she left a son, Denzil, who became third Lord Holles in 1690, at the age of fourteen. Four years later he also passed away, when the only surviving descendant of Sir Francis Pile was his youngest daughter's son, Edward Richards. One German Richards, Vice-Admiral of the Isle of Wight, had died in 1567, seized of a third of the Manor of Yaverland in Sandown Bay; the other two-thirds were acquired six years later by his son, and he or his successor will be responsible for the charming little Jacobean manor house which still survives. This, as well as Compton Beauchamp, Edward Richards inherited, but he evidently preferred the latter and set about remodelling it in the style of his day.

On the ground floor of the east side there remain two stone mullioned windows; one of them just shows behind a chimney breast in the fifth illustration, having as heads the depressed arch characteristic of the time of Henry VIII, and suggesting that Sir Thomas Fettiplace rebuilt the house after he acquired the estate. Although all the other stone mullioned windows, including those with transoms within the court (Fig. 6), are square headed, the section of the mouldings is exactly similar to that of the arch-headed windows, having the cavetto of late mediæval times instead of the plain chamfer that prevailed under Elizabeth, or the ovolo favoured by Jacobean designers. But the form of the courtyard windows is not such as we

expect before 1524, when Sir Thomas died. They remind us of those at Dingley and at Deene, in Northamptonshire, that belong to the middle years of the century, so that alterations may have been made at Compton by Lady Englefield, whose husband forfeited his own estates fourteen years before his wife died. Many of the features of that age have been obliterated by Edward Richards, such, for instance, as the fenestration of the south front, when no mullioned windows remain. We cannot be very definite as to the exact date and character of the house as it was during the Fettiplace occupation. Clearly, however, it was a little gabled house within its moat, and running round three sides of a small court, the fourth or north side being enclosed by a wall or low gate-house. All chimneys were on the outside walls, which were of brick, whereas the interior walls were of stone. The hall will have faced the entrance occupying the space of about 36ft. between the east and west ranges of building which ended in gables at both their north and south ends. Such will have been its sixteenth century disposition and appearance, and such, probably much out of repair, Edward Richards found it when he became its owner in the closing years of the seventeenth century. Who had dwelt there since his great grandfather had acquired it does not appear. The parish register, I believe, makes no mention of the Piles, and the most interesting parish incident of the period is connected with the church and not with the manor house. The parishioners had evidently been anti-Royalist and anti-Anglican during the Commonwealth, and so remained at the Restoration, when a High Church Tory rector named Hillard sought to rule the parish. But the parishioners elected one Thomas Pearce to represent their views, which he did in the most uncompromising manner. The offended rector "presented" him in 1665 in a long paper of many items. It was a small matter that he had let "ye tower of ye parish church of Compton run mightily to decay, lying a greate parte of it uncovered," had failed to repair "ye seates in ye body of ye said Church which are most of them ready to fall to the ground," or to whiten and beautify the walls which were "very foule and broken." The sins of omission pale before those of commission. The said Pearce had "openly laughed in the church" during the rector's sermon, had "derided the service and institution of the church and called the surplesse by the reproachfull name of a frocke." On the anniversary of King Charles' martyrdom he had kept the church locked



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THE PARLOUR

"COUNTRY LIFE."



Copyright.

THE HALL

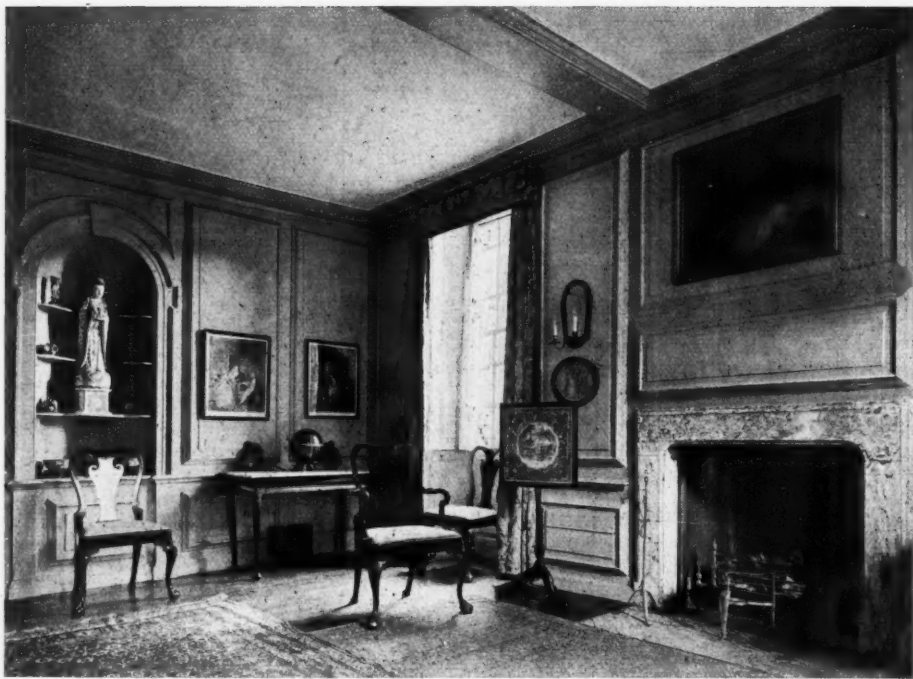
"COUNTRY LIFE."

and prevented a commemorative service being held by the rector, who grows angrier and angrier as he proceeds with his long indictment, and at last exclaims:

Item: I present the said Thomas Pearce for calling me sometimes knave, sly knave, cunning knave, sometimes foole, and that as I am going or coming from church.

As the arms on the overthrow of the forecourt gate (Fig. 1) are those of Richards im-

paling Warneford, we may presume that Edward Richards did not complete his remodelling until after 1710, when he married Rachel, daughter of Sir Edmund Warneford of Sevenhampton. He concentrated, so far as the exterior was concerned, on his entrance front, and determined that here at least he would have a complete example of the ruling taste, although the scale should be kept down to the character of the place and the measure of his purse. The forecourt, with its well designed stone and iron work and its segmental breaks at the gate and at the entrance door, is as characteristic of the ambitious designing of his day as is the north front. But this he added with the least possible disturbance to the existing fabric. The new central block was limited to the narrow width of the Tudor court, and in order not to block this up it had to come forward to the very edge of the moat and yet not have a depth greater than the older buildings, which is about 21ft. interior measure. These buildings he left intact as to structure, merely setting a



Copyright.

IN THE DINING-ROOM.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

two-storeyed classic frontage on to the north gable ends, and in other places sashing windows here and there altering some chimney shafts and doorways. But he dealt with the layout to the south as drastically as to the north. The illustration of the eastern section of the moat (Fig. 3) gives some idea of the lie of the land, which rises sharply from the edge of the moat in

the form of a ridge, while to the south the rise is more gentle. Westward there is a tendency to fall rather than rise, and a tall brick wall encloses the garden, separating it from the well-timbered meads and graveyard, but allowing a charming glimpse of the little stone-built and stone-tiled church, dedicated to St. Swithin, old and mellow looking like the house, yet now the very reverse of "run mightily to decay." Edward Richards divided the hall into two rooms and set a doorway in one of them as an exit to the space between hall and moat laid out as a grass plot some 100ft. long by 50ft. wide. It is bisected by a paved way joining the doorway and the bridge which gives on to broad gravel ways stretching level from east to west, but rising to the south, first on to the ample lawn, then to the upper flat, laid out in box hedges, flower parterres and shrubberies, and finally ending with another iron gateway with tall stone posts as finely panelled as those of the forecourt and surmounted by amorini full of life and action. The gate, wide enough merely for a horseman or pedestrian seeking exit to the downs, has an overthrow bearing the cypher of Edward Richards, whose scheme of shaping and planting his garden deserves this signature. More of him no one knows except that when he died in 1728 he left Compton and Yaverland to his only child, Anne, and her issue, and that failing, to his cousin, John Wright, town clerk of Oxford.

Anne Richards was a woman of character, capable of managing her estates, generous as lady of the manor, zealous at entertaining her neighbours, but above all things devoted to sport, a very leader in the coursing which was the fashionable pastime on the downs. This and her determination to retain her independence were the characteristics she wished recorded, and she set them out in a tentative epitaph, where she describes herself as "an utter foe to Wedlock's noose," and one

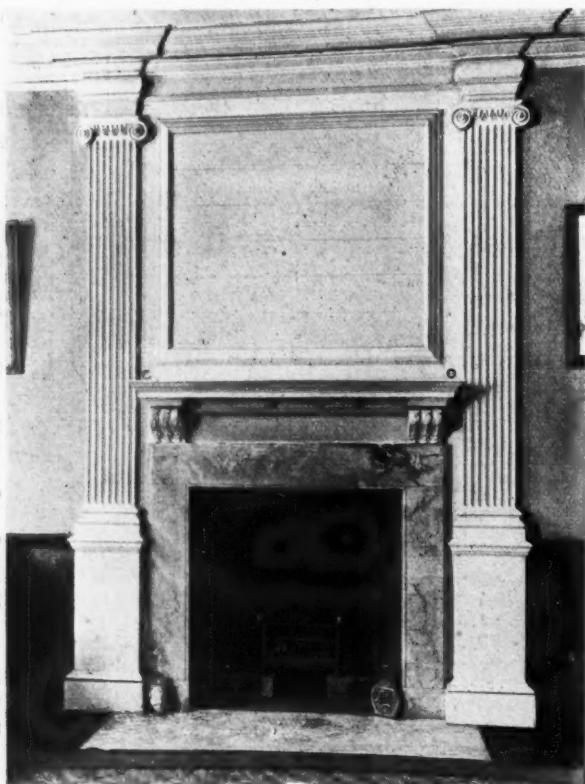
Who when alive, with piercing eye
Did many a timid Hare descry,
Well skilled and practised in the Art
Sometimes to find and sometimes start.

But when she died in 1771 her executors shook their heads at such mundane qualities and substituted for her verses a wordy prose recital of her charitable nature and Christian virtues. Years later Thacker's "Courser's Annual" records the fact that her greyhounds were the ancestors of some of the best blood of the Ashdown Club, and adds:

Not a day passed during the coursing Season, fair or foul, on which this indefatigable sportswoman was not dragged in her coach and six to the Downs, where springing out on her native heath she coursed on foot the rest of the morning often going twenty to twenty five miles.

We are told that she "was possessed of considerable advantages of person, complexion and understanding," and these, added to her £4,000 a year, brought endless suitors.

The remains of the Wig Avenue, as it was commonly called, still exists at Compton. At its farther extremity the gay gallants of the vale were



Copyright.

IN THE SCHOOLROOM.

"C.L."

accustomed to doff their riding wigs and receive from the Bandboxes, which their servants carefully bore in those days on the pommel of the saddle, the grand Perukes of Ceremony which had been duly prepared for an attack on the Heart of the young Heiress.

As she resisted all attacks the remainder clause of her father's will came into force. John Wright was dead, so the heir was his daughter Mary, and from her the estates passed to John Atkins Wright, M.P. for Oxford. Shortly after his death in 1823 Mr. W. N. Clarke, collecting materials for "A Parochial History of Berkshire," found his widow possessed of Compton and tells us:

The manor house is old, but seems to have been rebuilt upon the site of one more ancient. It encloses a small square and is surrounded by a moat. The terraces and ornamental grounds are judiciously preserved in their ancient form, a mode much better corresponding with ancient mansions than the modern fashion of adopting what is called the parklike manner of laying out the environs of a country residence with unmeaning clumps and belts.

Whence we infer that Mr. Clarke was one of the early revolters against the school of Capability Brown. It was probably from neglect that Compton escaped. John Atkins Wright is described as of Crowsley Park, Oxfordshire, and since the days of Anne Richards it has never been the chief residence of its owners. Before the middle of the last century the Craven family had added it to their Ashdown estate, and we hear how a trainer wished to rent it and would have turned the south side into additional loose boxes. From this fate it was saved by passing to the occupation of Vice-Chancellor Bacon, and this tenancy lasted throughout his own life and that of his son, Judge Bacon. They will have replaced the Richards windows on the south with the present thin Victorian sash barring, and to add to the convenience of this narrow and passageless house they set a pent roofed shed

across the north side of the court, blocking up the mullioned windows on the ground floor and leaving the apex of the door pediment just showing, as may be seen by the less weathered character of the stone up to that level. This unsightly excrescence was rightly swept away when Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Astley began their tenancy four years ago. They also sought to give full value to all old features, whether they were of Fettiplace or of Richards origin. In the half of the old hall which remains as the entrance sitting-room (Fig. 9) a doorway and the oak beam and rafter ceiling, of which the mouldings have not lost the Gothic tradition, remind us of Henry VIII's gallant knight. The wainscoting of 100 years later suggests some work done by the Piles, father or son, and was found cast away in a loft. The other half of the original hall was fitted up as a parlour by Edward Richards, and is one of at least half a dozen rooms which he wainscoted with the big bolelection-moulded panels of his day. Wishing, even in this little house, to have a fashionable reception suite, he set great doorways in both the inside walls of the room. For comfort's sake one of these (Fig. 8) has been changed to a wide panel which admirably fits Raeburn's beautiful portrait of Anne Balfour, Mrs. Stewart of St. Fort, Fife, who was grandmother to Mrs. Astley. The dining-room (Fig. 10), occupying the north-west corner, is similarly fitted. Edward Richards wainscoted in the fashionable white wood except in the room on the first floor of his new building, where we find the same character of panelling carried out in oak. The present inhabitants not only possess the taste and knowledge to give the correct touch to their delightful home, but are also the fortunate possessors of the right furniture and equipment. The three interiors illustrated are not exceptions, but merely examples characteristic of every corner of the house.

H. AVRAY TIPPING.

THE HORSE AND THE WAR.

BY LIEUT.-COL. SIR MERRIK R. BURRELL, BART.

AFTER reading "The Horse and the War," by Captain Sidney Galtrey (COUNTRY LIFE Library), one puts it down with the certitude in one's mind that every horse lover will welcome it, for it tells one so much of what the life of the Army horse and mule has really been during this terrible war, and I can vouch for the story being told without any exaggeration. Indeed, if Captain Galtrey had been at liberty to give the full figures and facts right up to the signing of the Armistice, the story told could have been made even more wonderfully interesting.

The foreword by Sir Douglas Haig says a very great deal in a few words. I only hope that all those responsible for the future of this country will read them, take them to heart and act on them.

Then we come to the charming piece of poetry by G. M. Jeudwine. This strikes a note of intense sympathy for the poor animals which have been asked to endure hardships of travel, of work, of climatic change and adverse conditions, often culminating in great suffering either from disease or gunshot wounds. An animal's mind is trained to associate pain with wrongdoing on his part, so to their bodily anguish they have often had added confusion and distress of mind whilst they wondered why such pain was inflicted upon them. The pathos of the war horse's life is well marked, and Captain Galtrey's infectious sympathy runs through every chapter like a subtle melody through a musical composition, and is one of the chief charms of the book.

The Remount Service has never failed to do what has been asked of it. Its work is not of the sensational order, though often tedious and having to be carried on under most adverse and trying conditions, so only failure could have brought it into the limelight. Hence its consistent success in supplying all the armies in France, Italy, Macedonia, Egypt, Palestine and Mesopotamia with all the horses, mules, donkeys and camels they have ever required has not given the public any chance to learn anything of the vast workings and lengthy ramifications of this department which supplies the mobility of our armies. When war suddenly broke out this sub-department of the Quartermaster-General's Department of the War Office had not quite completed its organisation, not from any fault of the Military Authorities, but from the usual penny wise and pound foolish policy of those who hold the public purse strings. Only those who saw some of the inside of those first months of the war will ever realise what this country owes to Sir John Cowans, the Quartermaster-General, and Sir William Birkbeck, the Director of Remounts. No sooner was the first rush of mobilisation over than not only the wastage of the Expeditionary Force had to be met, but horses and mules to horse the Kitchener's and Territorial Divisions had to be provided. Nothing but the clearest of brains, the greatest foresight and imagination, untiring energy and the power to inspire others could have succeeded. As one who has had the opportunity to see every side of the workings of the Remount Department in America, in England and in France, I heartily welcome Captain

Galtrey's book, for it supplies a great deal of most interesting knowledge which it is only right should be at the disposal of the public.

And so I am equally sure that this book will appeal to everyone who takes more than a merely superficial interest in the war just as much as to the horse lover, for it has its instructive side as well as its merely pleasant and amusing one.

The photographs reproduced are very typical, and to those who are not already acquainted with Captain Edwards' work the sketches will come as a revelation. They are wonderfully true to life, the only exaggeration being that every horse which he shows being branded is resenting it. May I ease the minds of the tenderhearted by assuring them that nine out of every ten horses branded take no notice at all at the time, and half a minute afterwards all have evidently forgotten about it? Almost the cleverest of the drawings are those on page 25, for Captain Edwards has so plainly shown how the good treatment the horse has received in the dépôt has not only brought his body into perfect health and condition, but has brought peace and contentment to his mind and eliminated all the sourness and suspicion acquired by the hardships and hustling inevitable on the journey from the middle west of America. All those who have had to handle these many hundreds of thousands of animals know how essential it is to get their minds and general nervous systems normal again before their bodies will thrive. Those who have generously subscribed to the R.S.P.C.A. and the Blue Cross will be delighted to read the chapters on the Veterinary Hospitals and learn of the wonderful work done by those fine organisations. Those who have established and developed them have every right to be proud of their handiwork, for the Veterinary Hospitals in France certainly constitute one of the "star turns" of our huge complex Army. No army has ever been so magnificently horsed before, and the Veterinary Service is well worthy of the horses. It has earned every word of praise Captain Galtrey has written.

Captain Galtrey has very clearly shown with what great success Major-General Sir William Birkbeck and his staff of several hundred officers and thousands of men all over the world have accomplished their task. Now, this success would have been quite impossible unless the buying of the horses and mules had been very good. I allude to it because there has been, as it was inevitable there would be, human nature being what it is, a certain amount of criticism of the buyers by the ill-informed and thoughtless. There is always more criticism over the one bad horse than there is praise for the whole other ninety-nine good ones put together. But let those who carp say what percentage of error they would ask for if they were required to buy from 50 to 200 animals every day, and sometimes travel all night as well. Shall we say 2 per cent.? Has not our critic possibly spent half a day buying one horse and then when he has got it has found he has made a 100 per cent. error? Well, supposing the Army buyers have purchased 1,250,000 animals since August, 1914, and have made 2 per cent. error, the number of undesirable animals amounts

to several thousands. Where are they? In France, where our self-constituted critic cannot see them? No! only the best go there. Some have been weeded out in America, but the bulk are here in England, where he can and does see them, and so gets a wrong impression of the work done by our buyers, as he principally sees their small percentage of error and not their 98 per cent. of success. Those working in the depôts and the Reserve Units could not have built up the great horse structure of the fighting armies as they have unless the purchasing officers at home and abroad had laid a sound foundation.

But "The Horse and the War" seems to me to do more than please, amuse, instruct and give praise where praise has been well earned by those who have been carrying out their duty and a labour of love at the same time. It makes one think seriously of the present position of horsebreeding in the British Isles, and of its future both as regards commerce and agriculture, and in its relation to the Army. And these thoughts make one turn back once again to Sir Douglas Haig's foreword. This great soldier, to whom his country owes so much, asks us—in order that the Army may be an efficient striking force if ever he, or whoever may succeed him, has again to take the field at its head—for what? He asks for an ample supply of animals

active service conditions their hairy legs are nothing less than a curse. They are easily upset by strange surroundings, and so are bad travellers. They also, in order to thrive, require bulky food, which is a very difficult thing to supply on service. If the many very able men engaged in breeding these heavy horses will only turn their attention to producing a shorter-legged, deeper, better ribbed horse, and by judicious selection eliminate a lot of the hair on the legs, I am sure the other disabilities I have mentioned will disappear of themselves. And I do not think anything but good will have come to the breeds themselves, for whatever purpose they may be required. To succeed, a revolution is needed in the show ring, and this applies equally to thoroughbred stallions and to hunters.

Our stout cobs, obtained from the districts in which our indigenous ponies exist, are unbeatable. Every good mare of this type should be repatriated and put back into those parts of England and Wales where they are bred.

The thick-set polo pony is admirable. The weedy, highly strung blood pony has no suitable Army job. Moral: the old-fashioned polo is more practical, though less spectacular, than the modern galloping game. Our light draught horses, coming almost entirely from Wales and Ireland, are very good indeed,



ON THE ROAD TO VICTORY.

Reprinted from coloured frontispiece of "The Horse and the War."

possessing hardiness and activity. Could we supply him, or should we fail him? On mobilisation we must be dependent solely on our own resources. Would our resources be sufficient?

Let us examine the merits of our chief breeds of horses by the light of our experience during the war. Are our riding horses of the thoroughbred and hunter types what they should be? One cannot honestly say they are. Too many of the thoroughbreds are too weedy and deficient in action. The better class hunters are too tall and require too much food and comfortable quarters. What we want to aim at is the compact, well bred and balanced horse about 15h. 3ins. People who have been in touch with the show ring of late years will know what I mean when I say that we want to see more horses of the Tennis Ball type and fewer of the Broadwood.

Do our heavy draught breeds, the Shire and the Clydesdale, answer to Sir Douglas Haig's description as possessing hardiness and activity? Again I fear I must give a very emphatic NO. They have proved far and away the most difficult for either the Remount or Veterinary Departments to cope with. They are too tall by far, lack heart room, their resisting power to diseases, especially those of the pulmonary organs, is very low, and under

only their quantity, compared with the requirements of a modern army, is negligible, and when you do find a good one its commercial value is 50 per cent. higher than the Army maximum price!

And this is where Captain Galtrey's book should prove of such value. For it will, in an easy and pleasant way, drive into people's heads the fact that an ample supply of fit and suitable light draught horses is essential to the mobilisation of any modern army, that their numbers in an army far exceed any other kind of horse, that they are of *vital importance*, as without them your army could be only partially mobilised and would be quite inefficient.

The trend of modern warfare has made this class of horse far more essential than when we mobilised in 1914. We were only just able to find sufficient for our needs then. Given the same supply as in 1914 and the necessity to mobilise an up-to-date army and the job, in my opinion, would prove impossible.

No wonder in 1915 Lord Kitchener wrote urgent letters to the President of the Board of Agriculture begging for adequate steps to be taken at once. What was the result? A committee was called together; it worked hard and conscientiously, and

a few of its minor recommendations have been carried out. *Nothing, as regards the provision of the essential light draught horse, has been done.* If this very difficult question is taken determinedly in hand at once and the fullest use made of the thousands of excellent mares in the Army at the moment, it is not insoluble. But if the authorities continue to shirk their duty for another eighteen months as they have for the last fifty years, then I fear the position will be irretrievable. For goodness sake let action be taken before the lessons of this war are forgotten. It will cost more to breed a light draught horse in this country than to buy him abroad, but surely we have by now learnt that it is better to spend £100 in your own country than to send £75 abroad

and occupy valuable cargo space with what you buy. How we can best stimulate the breeding of this class of horse is a matter for the most serious consideration. No half-hearted, timid measures will accomplish it. But it is too big a subject for me to touch on now, and I have only alluded to it at all in order to emphasise the fact that "The Horse and the War" is a book to be read by all. A child can pick it up and take delight in the pictures, the horse lover will read it with interest, and those who have their country's welfare at heart will find much in it to take notice of and ponder over. I only hope that those in authority will not stop at thinking, nor at talking, but will do something, and at once.

LITERATURE

A BOOK OF THE WEEK

Sir Walter Scott as a Judge, by John Chisholm, K.C. (W. Green and Son.)

SIR WALTER SCOTT, in spite of all the changes in fashion, holds his place among the English-speaking peoples as the greatest novelist in the language. But for many a year after his death he was affectionately remembered in his favourite haunts as "the Shirra." Up to a very recent date there were old men living in Jedburgh, Selkirk and Galashiels, who still remembered "the Shirra" as he came limping up to the courthouse with his white face and malformed foot. He had a reputation in law as well as in literature, and Mr. John Chisholm, K.C., has done admirable service by searching out the facts about his judicial career and his decisions in the Sheriff Court of Selkirk. The book differs from many of those obtained by rummaging papers for personalia about dead celebrities. The process used to be called "body snatching" by "R. L. S." and "W. E. H." Mr. Chisholm is in no way guilty of that crime. All he has done is to unearth the records of cases in which Scott appeared, and in the result has given us a book as delightful as it is instructive. Scott was for a long period Sheriff of Selkirkshire. He was appointed on December 16th, 1799, and held the office until his death on September 21st, 1832. The cases he dealt with cannot fail to interest every reader of his novels, because of the great part which legal persiflage plays in his Scottish stories. There are few if any of them in which a lawyer does not make an amusing appearance, and legal points are discussed in apparent jest with the greatest legal acumen. A case in point is Jonathan Oldbuck's exposition, with his nephew Hector, and the gaberlunzie Edie Ochiltree as auditors, of the principle that in Scotland no man can be legally imprisoned for debt. The passage is too long to quote as the Antiquarian was not sparing of his words, but the argument is that the debtor receives a royal command to pay within a certain time—fifteen days or six, as the case may be. If he resists then he is

lawfully and rightfully declared a rebel to our gracious sovereign, whose command he has disobeyed and, that by three blasts of a horn at the market-place of Edinburgh, the metropolis of Scotland. And he is then legally imprisoned not on account of any civil debt, but because of his ungrateful contempt of the royal mandate.

The passage is quoted in *Thorn v. Black*, December 5th, 1828. In that case it was decided by the First Division of the Court of Session with Sir Walter Scott probably sitting as Clerk to the Session at the table. Lord Gillies said:

The law on this subject cannot be better expressed than it is by Monk-barns in a work of fiction with which we are all well acquainted.

The cases incidentally carry us back to a curious old Scotland which has changed out of all recognition nowadays. For example, in 1802 a butcher in Galashiels bought a cow from the Earl of Lauderdale. He did not sell it nor have it cut into beef, but, in the language of the law, "carried" her to Edinburgh in order to be exposed as a public spectacle. The dispute concerned the man who was thus employed. He was accused of robbing the till or taking the money of visitors and using it for himself. Scott decided the case with his usual sagacity, but it is worth noticing he never misses an opportunity of referring to "the wonderful cow," as he calls it. Another very interesting case is that relating to the Tailors' Banner at Selkirk. The occasion was the Common Riding, an annual feature in the majority of Scottish towns, but now falling into desuetude. In 1804 things did not go with the usual smoothness. The Incorporation of Tailors declined to join the Common Riding procession and got up one of their own, which was the cause of rioting. During the disturbance one Andrew Brown, a journeyman tailor, "attacked the standard-bearer and wrenched the standard from his hands and tore it in such a manner as rendered it useless." This is the language of the summons.

We need not go into the minutiae of the case, or even tell how the one side said the banner was of no value and the other that it was priceless. It still exists as a possession of Mr. Johnstone, clothier, in Selkirk. Its subject was our first parents in Paradise, showing Eve with the fatal fruit in her hand, the serpent artfully entwined round the sacred tree and Adam at a little distance. The legend is exceedingly appropriate to the tailors. "They sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons." The final decision of the Sheriff gives a happy glimpse into his good-natured character. The banner was found to be "capable of repair, and out of his respect to the craft" the Sheriff had it repaired in his own family. Lady Scott and her daughters appear to have done what was necessary.

The turf in Ettrick Churchyard more than once gave rise to litigation. Charles Paten, the minister, complained to the Sheriff by letter that "a shameful practice" had for some time past "taken place at Ettrick in cutting and otherwise abusing the churchyard for procuring turf in order to cover new made graves." The alleged offender was the gravedigger, Walter Shiell, a character who had been sixty years in the parish. He told the Sheriff of his never having heard that the "unoccupied" ground in the churchyard was the property of the minister, and "he would consider his work very ill-finished were the graves left uncovered, particularly as the minister's black cattle and swine roamed so frequently in the churchyard." He was, however, very sternly told to stop doing it.

A case of Sabbath breaking will delight those English readers who are never tired of jeering at the Scottish Sabbath. The fearful sin of the man against whom proceedings were taken was that when the lieges were decently going to church for the worship of God the two defendants "did travel with two carts and four horses from Ashkirk Bridge to Mossilee upon the Public Road leading by Greenhill, Whitmuir and Lindean, in defiance of religion, law, public order and decency, and to the great profanation of the Lord's Day, and the annoyance and offence of the Lieges."

The toll gate was an institution that led to law and endless jesting. The toll-keeper, "all on 'em," as Mr. Weller senior said, "men as has met with some disappointment in life," used to close the gate on the slightest provocation, and young bloods when they were going home would toss the money at his head and think nothing of jumping the gate if it were closed in front of them.

Sir Walter was evidently very much in his glory when Mr. Johnston of Alva brought an action as to building a march dyke between his lands of Lewinshope and Broadmeadows. The first interlocutor runs as follows: "The Sheriff-Deputy, having considered the Report, Objections, and Answers, Agreeable to the request of the Objector, will visit and perambulate the marches in presence of the parties, and for that purpose appoints parties to meet him at Penmanscore upon Monday, the twenty-second current at eleven o'clock forenoon."

As Mr. Chisholm points out the Wizard could not resist the word "perambulate" and probably the last three verses of an old ballad were running in his head when he wrote the sentence:

Desyre him mete thee at Penmanscore,
And bring four in his companie;
Five erles sall gang yoursell befor,
Gude cause that you suld honour'd be.

Bid him mete me at Penmanscore,
And bring four in his companie;
Five erles sall cum wi' mysell,
Gude reason I suld honour'd be.

He bids ye mete him at Penmanscore,
And bring four in your companie;
Five erles sall gang himself befor,
Nae mair in number will he be.

Multure or moutar was an endless cause of quarrel in old Scotland, for the miller was ever dipping his dish too deeply in the meal and dodging the law in other respects. He was just the same old sixpence as the miller in Chaucer's "Reeve's Tale." We could linger hours over this book. So will anybody who has imbibed the novels of Scott with his mother's milk and knows the life in Scotland in the eighteenth century just as though it were passing before him illuminated by the sunshine of Scott's kindly humour.

Dr. Elsie Inglis, by Lady Frances Balfour. (Hodder and Stoughton.)

BUT for the last three years of the life of Dr. Elsie Inglis, the history of the first fifty would probably never have been written. Such a reflection belittles the value neither of the fifty nor of the three, but simply recognises the fact that Elsie Maud Inglis, born in 1864 and dying in 1917, was both early enough to experience something of the worst of one world, and just late enough to see the beginning of another world for women. A few months before her death, writing from one of the Scottish Women's Hospitals in Russia, she chronicles the tardy dawn of that new world with characteristic, amused tolerance: "So the vote has come! and for our work. Fancy its having taken the war to show them how ready we were to work! Or even to show that that work was necessary. Where do they think the world would have been without women's work all these ages?" Of her own readiness to work, the story of her last years affords the supreme proof, for she spent them, working beyond her strength and finally beyond hope of recovery, with her Red Cross unit in Serbia and Russia, and returned home only to die. All histories of pioneer medical women are the same history; the obstacles encountered by Dr. Elsie Inglis in her youth inevitably led her keen and justice-loving mind to a consideration of the position of women, and, her degree won, she sacrificed all the time she could spare from her profession to working for the vote. A paragraph in which her hostility to militant methods is expressed by her biographer with some of the warmth of yesteryear furnishes an amusing proof of the distance separating the old world from the new. For the sudden note of rancour strikes the ear with the strangest unreality, with a remoteness as of "battles long ago." And no wonder—since a chapter or two later Dr. Elsie Inglis is working in her field

hospital with women, two of whose names, at least, one recognises as those of prominent ex-militants. This is but one example of the general upheaval; to-day the new world for women, although still but an infant, is so very much alive that it is hard to remember its hoary predecessor. Already one regards with the mild, detached interest due to prehistoric remains the government official who, only four years ago, was capable of replying to an offer of war service from a distinguished medical woman with the advice, "My good lady, go home and sit still." Of that home-going and down-sitting was born the idea of a Red Cross unit to be organised and financed by the Federation of Scottish Suffrage Societies, and Dr. Elsie Inglis gave the remainder of her life to the work then begun. Anecdote is ever the plum in the cake of biography, and the book has a stock of good stories that illustrate the physical and moral courage, the loyalty, the public spirit and the tender-heartedness of one who was ever, in peace and in war, a very gallant gentlewoman.

V. H. F.

David and Jonathan, by E. Temple Thurston. (Hutchinson, 6s. 9d.)

WAS it not Ilam Carve, the hero of Mr. Arnold Bennett's "The Great Adventure," who discovered that if once you have painted a life-size picture of a policeman blowing his whistle, the public will expect you to continue to paint life-size pictures of policemen blowing their whistles? At any rate, it is only a fantastic way of stating what is lamentably true, and in turning to Mr. Temple Thurston's new novel one is heartened by his resolute endeavour to carry his readers back to elementary things, but is a little conscious that all the time he is keeping one watchful eye on the paymaster. *David and Jonathan*, as has been indicated, is a story of a friendship—a friendship which is, like many another, strained to the uttermost by the love of woman. The story is of a shipwreck and the casting up of David and Jonathan upon a desert beach. Enter to them, seeming dead, one other survivor, a woman. Here, then, the reader has the familiar triangle robbed of the realities and subtleties which civilisation ordinarily imposes. The partnership endures in friendship for a time, until escape seems impossible, and then it is that the primal passions of men leave no way out but to fight and to conquer. How the issue is avoided in the nick of time and it all ends happily the reader must discover for himself; it is enough to say that on the whole this new version of the Swiss Family Robinson idea is thoroughly entertaining, though the narrative is needlessly encumbered by the endeavour to maintain the device of a manuscript from which the author quotes.

THE ESTATE MARKET

A NOTABLE SOUTH DEVON SALE.

SIR HARRY T. EVE is about to dispose of the remaining portions of his Devon estates, having instructed Messrs. Rendell and Sawdye to sell Yarnar and other property at Newton Abbot on Monday, December 16th. Yarnar is a pleasantly placed house, some 700ft. or 800ft. above sea level, with a farm of 70 acres and plantations and commons extending to over 780 acres, with fishing, shooting and golf. Pullabrook and part of Knowle make up another 220 acres, intersected by two trout streams, and there is a model walled garden of considerable extent. Residences at Lustleigh are also to be offered. Three-fourths of the purchase money may remain on mortgage for five years at 4½ per cent.

Mr. Maurice Hewlett was among the buyers at the sale of Lord Pembroke's Wilton estate at Salisbury by Messrs. J. Carter Jonas and Sons in conjunction with Messrs. Lofts and Warner. The private sale of a good many of the farms had been made to the tenants before the auction, as already announced in these columns. Other tenants acquired their holdings under the hammer, and one or two lots were withdrawn, but immediately disposed of at an advance on the final bids, and only a few lots remain for private treaty. Inclusive of timber the property realised a total of £112,000. Among the farms sold may be mentioned Woodminton, at Bower Chalke, 507 acres, for £6,200, plus £162 for timber; Chase Barn, West Chase and Middle Chase, with Wakesdean and Stonedown Woods, altogether 1,250 acres, for £9,200, plus £1,381 for timber; Manor and Prescombe Farms, at Ebbesborne, £10,500; and properties at Dinton.

Chadaere Hall and 2,305 acres, near Bury St. Edmunds, will be submitted in that town on Wednesday next by Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley. The principal lots are the mansion and 230 acres, ten large farms, and others of from 50 acres to 90 acres. There are sixty lots in all. Other properties to be dealt with next month by the same firm include Lord Leigh's Cheshire estate of Little Leigh, 1,200 acres with a rent roll of £2,200 a year, in the Weaver Valley, near Northwich. The sale is fixed for December 18th at Crewe. Castle Menzies is to come under the hammer in Edinburgh on the following day, at the reduced "upset" price of £60,000. The shooting over the 11,600 acres is among the best of its kind in Scotland, the grouse averaging well over 1,200 brace. Some of the timber on the estate has been sold, on the Aird Plantation and elsewhere. The rental value of the property is estimated at approximately £3,600 a year.

The remaining portion of the Forfar estate of Logie-Kinloch, about 1,013 acres, is for sale privately. Pell Wall, with 275 acres, near Market Drayton, will be offered in the spring by Messrs. Osborn and Mercer. Freehold and tithe-free farms extending to over 600 acres, near Lincoln, await offers there on December 10th, under the hammer of Messrs. George Vickers, Son and Tallents.

Cumberland property, known as Snittlegarth, between Penrith and Cockermouth, will be submitted, at Wigton on December 17th, by Messrs. Millar, Son and Co. There are 2,800 acres, producing £2,400 a year.

New York Lodge, a mansion with very striking half-timbered work, at Bourne End, has been disposed of by Messrs. Hampton and Sons. Over £100,000 has been realised by Messrs. B. Hankinson and Sons by the sale of Minstead Lodge, Lyndhurst, and other properties, including, jointly with Messrs. Rebbeck Brothers, The Hollies, at Sway.

Farms in various parts of the country have changed hands privately and otherwise during the week at satisfactory prices, although, as a Bristol auctioneer remarked, still below those ruling fifty years ago. A Welsh farm of 138 acres at Forden found a purchaser at Messrs. Alfred Mansell and Co.'s auction for £3,800. Lincolnshire land has also made good prices under the hammer of Messrs. Escrib and Barrell. Some 570 acres in Westmorland were sold for £18,630 by Messrs. Driver, Jonas and Co. at Kendal.

Mr. M. W. Colchester Wemyss has instructed Messrs. Bruton, Knowles and Co. to dispose of The Wilderness estate, between Gloucester and Ross, at Mitcheldean Road Station. The area is 1,340 acres, and the rental, exclusive of woodlands and other lots in hand, over £2,000 a year. The auction will be held at Gloucester on December 21st. South Hall, a Georgian house with about 40 acres, at Basingstoke, is in the market, and will shortly be offered by Messrs. Edwin Fear and Walker.

Rockbeare Court, near Broadclyst, is in Messrs. Hussey and Son's hands for sale at Exeter on December 13th, as a whole, 166 acres, or in seven lots, the house and 30 acres being the principal one.

Victoria Cottage, adjoining Osborne Cottage, East Cowes, has been privately sold by Messrs. Hampton and Sons, on behalf of the late Sir Richard Burbidge's executors. It is a freehold of nearly two acres, let at £45 a year. Messrs. Marvin, jointly concerned in the sale, are also the agents, with Messrs. Hampton and Sons, in the matter of Osborne Cottage and 19 acres, which was formerly occupied by Princess Beatrice. Messrs. Hampton's list on Tuesday last at the Mart was also shortened by the private sale of Hazel Lodge, Holland Park. The firm has already arranged for auctions on twenty dates in the coming year.

Field-Marshal Lord Nicholson's executors are about to dispose of No. 51, Pont Street, Cadogan Square, through Messrs. Trollope. No. 1, Portman Square, a fine Adam mansion, possessing all its original beauty, but thoroughly adapted to modern requirements, is also in Messrs. Trollope's hands for sale at an early date. The lease of a Mayfair residence, No. 23, Upper Brook Street, having nearly sixty years unexpired, will be sold at the Mart on Monday next by Messrs. Elliott, Son and Boyton.

Hampstead houses sold during the week include No. 4, Wedderburn Road, by Messrs. Goldschmidt and Howland, and a freehold in South Hill Park, overlooking the Heath, and having a large garden. Prices in this particular locality are rising rapidly and tend to approximate to the original cost of the properties, which are well fitted and substantially built.

The demand for houses in the southern suburbs is well maintained. Among the sales of the last few days may be mentioned that by Messrs. Stimson and Sons of a freehold at Park Hill, Clapham Park, for £1,400. Acting for trustees, Messrs. Harrods (Limited) will, on December 9th, sell the long lease of No. 19, Collingham Road, South Kensington, and, on the same occasion, they will offer Elmer Grange with 2½ acres in Croydon Road, Beckenham, at an "upset" price of only £1,100, and No. 48, Arkwright Road, Hampstead.

The freehold town mansion, No. 27, Kensington Court, close to Kensington Palace, has been sold by private treaty by Messrs. Alex. H. Turner and Co. before the auction. It is a finely decorated house, a notable feature being the lounge outer hall, which is panelled with old Italian Renaissance oak, surmounted by a frieze of stamped Spanish leather. The grand staircase has a wrought iron balustrade and massive brass handrail.

ARBITER.

Hamptons' Modern Bedroom Furniture



HAMPTONS' "FALKLAND" BEDROOM SUITE in the Jacobean Style, of oak, handsomely panelled and enriched with carvings. The oak has all been specially selected for its remarkably fine figuring and full polished to a very pleasing tone of nut brown. The knobs are of turned ebony with ivory centres. The suite is exceptionally substantial and every detail of it exemplifies the finest craftsmanship.

6ft. Wardrobe, one-third fitted with drawers and sliding trays, and a full-length mirror on the inside of the door. The other two-thirds has a deep shelf at top, with, beneath it brass rods and hooks for hanging. 4ft. 4in. Dressing Table with detached swing toilet mirror on stand. 4ft. Washstand with one drawer in centre, two drawers on left hand and a cupboard on right hand. The polished oak top is covered with a detachable sheet of transparent plate glass, and the top is entirely free of any upper part so that this piece may be used either as a washstand or a writing table. Pedestal cupboard. Folding towel airer. Three upholstered seat chairs. £282 0 0

HAMPTONS' "STAFFORD" 4ft. Oak Bedroom Suite, £55 10 0

HAMPTONS' "OSBORNE" 5ft. Mahogany Bedroom Suite, £65 0 0

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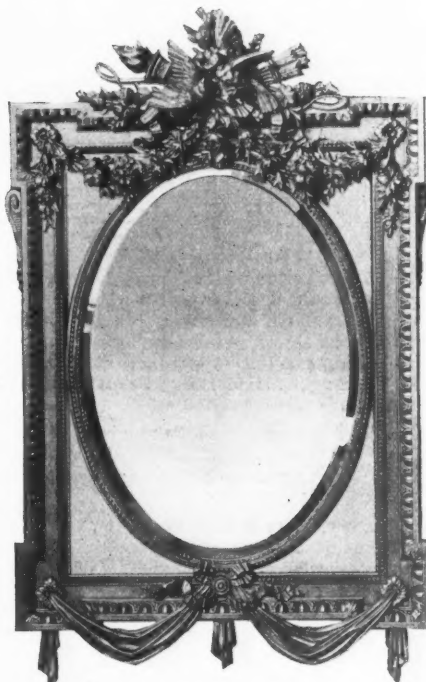
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The Pelmanic Farmer

By GEORGE HENRY

ONE of the most striking phases of the war is the extraordinary development that has taken place in agriculture and stock-farming. Indeed, it is not too much to say that we have at last arrived at the opening stages of the Renaissance of British farming.

For this we must give thanks to the U-boat. Its activities have given British farming such a fillip as never before it has experienced, and this year's harvest is weighty evidence in support of the assertion.

The success that is attending the development of the agricultural resources of the nation is in a great measure due to the new spirit making itself felt in agriculture activity—the spirit of efficiency. The old antagonism to so-called “new-fangled ideas” is dying—strangled very thoroughly by the necessities of the nation.

The farmer is coming to a realisation of the fact that running a farm is an occupation just as amenable to efficient organisation and new ideas as is the task of administering a factory. And, among other reasons, it is because of this that so many farmers are giving earnest attention to the study of Pelmanism.

I can foresee the ghost of an incredulous smile on the face of some of my readers at this statement. “How can this Pelmanism be of use to a farmer—what use has the practical farmer for this system of mind training?” they will query. Let it be clearly understood that Pelmanism does not profess to teach the farmer farming. Neither does it claim to teach the principles of engineering, nor the practice of law. Yet both the engineer and the lawyer have attained success in their profession by its aid. So with the farmer. Pelmanism does not seek to tell him more than he already knows of agriculture or stock-keeping, but it does show him how to make efficient use of the knowledge he already possesses, and how also speedily to acquire more.

In every sphere of activity there are certain faculties whose degree of development means all the difference between success and failure, or, at the best, mediocre achievement. Farming provides no exception to this rule. Let us consider for a moment the qualities that go to the making of a successful farmer. Analysis of the make-up of a flourishing farmer who has attained to success by his own efforts would disclose high development of such qualities as observation, initiative, judgment and organisation.

Go with such a man to market and show him a score of heifers. It will not take him long to decide which of the beasts are most likely to prove a profitable investment. His judgment comes from deduction based on past and present observation. It is not blind instinct at work—not a “gift.” It is the work of an efficient mind over whose functions its owner has complete control. Therein is just one instance of the value of keen observation.

Now in Pelmanism the training of observation is given due prominence. The farmer whose power of observation is already highly developed would find it rapidly becoming intensified during a course of Pelmanism. He who has hitherto neglected to cultivate this faculty would benefit still more.

But it is not only observation that Pelmanism develops. That is merely one phase of the mind. Pelmanism trains the mind not only in its individual functions but in its entirety. It does not develop one quality at the expense of another, but makes each an efficient part of an efficient whole.

No man will hesitate in conceding that the farmer who brings brains as well as hands to the task of cultivating the land or raising stock will inevitably be successful over him who is content to scratch the surface of Mother Earth and never think beyond the needs of the moment. Perpetual watchfulness, foresight, courage, concentration, initiative, resource—these are the qualities of mind that successful farming calls for, and Pelmanism develops them in *excelsis*.

Agriculture needs new ideas—Pelmanism develops creative thought. Agriculture needs organisation—Pelmanism trains the mind to classify and correlate so that efficient organisation becomes a matter of habit.

And then, further, there is the social side of Pelmanism for the farmer. The Pelmanic farmer becomes prominent in the social life of his community. He is broadminded, his conversation ranges far and wide, he is not only *au fait* with every development of his own business, but he can talk interestingly upon any subject of interest. He is not the bucolic figure of the stage caricature, but a man of the world with a mind keyed up to the pitch of cool, swift, deep thought.

To the farmer living on an isolated farm, with little opportunity for interchange of ideas with his fellowmen, Pelmanism is a vital necessity. It provides activity for the mind and combats the tendency to a partial mental atrophy that living in isolated circumstances almost inevitably fosters. In the long winter evenings Pelmanism provides an occupation of the greatest interest and charm. It is surprisingly simple. The profound truths upon which it bases its lessons and exercises are clothed in language that anyone with an elementary education can understand. Beginning with the exposition of simple basic realities it leads the student on through easy stages to complete mastery of his own mind and the fullest knowledge of its machinery and functions.

It must not be supposed that Pelmanism entails hard study: the very reverse is the case, so fascinating is the manner in which the principles of Pelmanism are made clear. Any odd moment can be utilised by the Pelmanist for the study of the lessons and practice of the exercises of the system. It makes no great tax upon time or trouble, but for the expenditure of earnest effort it returns a rich reward.

TRIBUTES TO PELMANISM.

Sir Wm. Robertson Nicoll, M.A., LL.D.:

(Editor of “The British Weekly.”)

“Development and increase by discipline and exercise” may be taken as the foundation-principle of ‘Pelmanism.’ Psychologists are agreed that the principle is thoroughly sound and scientific: results show that it is inherently practical and fruitful. Common sense also agrees that the principle is essentially right, for we well know that upon regular use or exercise depends the efficiency of every organ, limb, and muscle of our organisation.”

“Theoretical science and abstract principle do not interest the busy man whose work consumes the greater portion of his day. Hence, psychology as a science remained largely outside the ken of the average man, until the findings of the scientists were linked up with the facts of everyday life by ‘Pelmanism.’ ‘Pelmanism’ makes available for practical purposes what the scientific investigator has discovered by years of patient laboratory search.”

Sir H. Rider Haggard:

Author of “Farmers’ Year” and “Rural England.”

“Education, properly understood, does not merely mean something which enables people to acquire facts that are useful in the passing of competitive examinations. Indeed, I believe, as I understand that the Directors of the Pelman Institute do also, the entire system of competitive examinations, also their results, to be of doubtful value. True education, if it is to prove really helpful to a man or woman, and therefore to the nation, must have a moral side, something that strengthens the character as well as stores the mind with the details of various sorts of learning.

“To me it seems that Pelmanism, as I understand it, does to a considerable extent fulfil this ideal, and for that reason I recommend it to those who, in the fullest sense, really wish to learn and to become what men and women ought to be.

“Our nation, like others, is going through a period of awful strain and trouble. We hope and believe that we shall emerge from that trouble chastened but safe, if impoverished, distressed, and disorganised. Then, unless we are to sink in the world and bid farewell to the proud position which we have held for centuries, must come another period, that of reconstruction. On the wreck of the past we must rise to better things. Here it is, I think, that the applied principles of Pelmanism may help us.”

Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, M.A. (Oxon.), M.A. (Cantab.), Litt.D. (Bristol):

“The Pelman system is a real ‘system,’ and not a haphazard collection of Educational tricks and notions. It is a ‘live’ organic invention, which means that it is a growing one. Its basal principles are sound, well-tryed, and ‘scientific.’

“Its worth as a ‘discovery’—or its main worth—lies in its application of tried principles to practice:

“—guided (I should add) by a clear sense that the human faculties, as they have a common root, are amenable, in a far higher degree than is usually supposed, to common methods of improvement. The system is a ‘large’ system; it boldly ignores conventional hierarchies in our pursuits, admits the difference (say) between astronomy and everyday life, but says ‘Here is a gymnastic which will help your mind whether you be an astronomer or a merchant or a merchant’s clerk.’”

Lucas Malet (Mrs. Mary St. Leger Harrison):

“Pelmanism steps in very helpfully. Not a patent medicine, or miraculous panacea for all earthly ills. It advances no such foolish and loud-voiced pretensions. But helpfully, as a steady influence and occupation, as a basis for a fresh start, a basis—if you will—for the creation of a new tradition, in place of the poor, old scrapped ones—better than they, since it is independent of outward conditions, self-made, self-supporting, and, consequently, of an upbuilding, encouraging, and fortifying sort.”

“Mind and Memory” (in which the Pelman Course is fully described, with a Synopsis of the lessons) will be sent gratis and post free, together with a full reprint of “Truth’s” famous Report on the Pelman System and a form entitling readers of COUNTRY LIFE to the complete Course for one-third less than the usual fees, on application to the Pelman Institute, 8 Pelman House, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C. 1.

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CORRESPONDENCE

VILLAGE WAR MEMORIALS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—Mr. F. Morley Horder's letter suggests one form of village memorial. May I suggest another which has met with general agreement in the village where I live? We are poor and cannot afford a village room, or any utilitarian memorial, if I may use such an expression. We have settled to erect a simple large block of stone—probably a single block of granite, though best, will be too expensive. It will be set up on the site of the old village cross at four cross roads. On it will be cut the name of the village; under this the names of those from the village who have fought for their country and those who have fought and died. It will be designed to serve also as a signpost, with the words on it:

"They showed us the way."

Mr. Arthur G. Walker, the sculptor of the beautiful statue of Florence Nightingale in Pall Mall, has kindly consented to design this for us.—KNUTSFORD.

P.S.—Anyone who has driven or motored through England knows the need of something to tell the names of the villages one passes through.

THE WINCHESTER WAR MEMORIAL.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—With reference to the letter in your issue of November 16th, signed "S. Hants," about War Memorials at Winchester, permit me to say that your correspondent does scant justice both to the architect and the Committee of Wykehamists—in so far as they have approved of his design—in attributing a want of respect for the old buildings of Winchester College. It would have been obvious to him, if he had carefully studied the plans and report, to which he has apparently had access, that the proposals he so lightly criticises have been inspired by great reverence for the beautiful buildings of William of Wykeham. These buildings, which all Wykehamists naturally look upon as the sacred foundation of their College, and which were so famous when they were built that they were the example on which Eton and King's College, Cambridge, were founded, have been ignored by all subsequent builders at Winchester. The present suggestions are an attempt to repair this neglect and provide a comprehensive scheme in order that the mistakes of the past may be avoided in the future. The only land on which the College can possibly extend is the site of the gardens of the houses in Kingsgate Street. The proposed new buildings, of which your correspondent seems generally to approve (the new hall is larger than he thinks), even if considerably reduced in scale, must necessarily occupy practically all the gardens of these houses, which would then lose their value and attractiveness, and both the houses and the College buildings would mutually ruin each other by such juxtaposition. It was therefore decided, after much consideration, that the houses must be sacrificed for the greater and more vital interests of the War Memorial and the needs of the College. Kingsgate Street would certainly not be the poorer in architectural appearance if walls and buildings of stone and flint, to which Winchester at present owes so much of its charm, were built to balance and harmonise with those which exist on the other side of the South African Memorial Gateway. The Memorial Committee have no intention of interfering in any way with "School." The Hampshire War Memorial is not my business, so I will only say that I venture to dispute the accuracy of the account your correspondent gives of the proposal. For instance, "the ancient high crooked wall on one side," which he says "was built against the incursion of the Danes," is not part of the old Precinct Wall and was probably built in the latter half of the seventeenth century. But the older the wall, the greater the justification for the respect which the present scheme shows to it in making it a prominent feature of the design of the Memorial, the keynote of which is to link the memorial of this war with the historical buildings and memories of the past. It is not proposed, I understand, to use any marble in the memorials.—WYKEHAMIST.

SURRENDER OF U-BOATS OFF THE EAST COAST.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

"Twenty U-boats surrendered to British ships off the East Coast yesterday." —Daily Paper, November 21st.

SIR,—In turning out some sketches a few months before the war I consigned one to the flames because of its faulty workmanship, which I would now give much to be able to reclaim. The picture showed a stretch of beach, the shore of a (then) unpretentious little town. On the top of a cliff prettily wooded with hornbeam and tamarisk rose a white house, unobtrusive and not of great size, but situated high and with a good command of land and water. The cliffs slanted down to the sands, which in turn shelved to the water's edge. Rocks were laid bare by a receding tide, and among them, searching for treasures of beach and pool, were some little rosy-faced, bare-legged lads with shrimping nets. Out to sea a few miles lay the lightship known as the *Cork*, and to the right Landguard Fort. The town, of course, was Felixstowe, and the little shrimpers were three of the children of the German Emperor. The sketch was made at the time of their visit, now some years ago, to the little watering-place. How well that visit is remembered by East Anglians to-day! In this silent surrender of twenty U-boats within sight of eager watchers, many of whom remember that royal visit and witness this tragic sequence, how few hearts there are that have not been stirred to their very depths. The Supreme War Lord professed a great liking for Felixstowe, and without a doubt conjured up during his brief stay there many a vision; but our vision of to-day was never one of them. The visit of the German Royal Family made a great epoch in the annals of the little town, noted then chiefly for its incomparable air and golf links. They were courted, flattered and besieged for custom, and in turn responded as royalty does respond. Prices ran high, and purchases were made of things as big as a baron of beef to those as trifling as a box of hairpins. And the royal arms were emblazoned over the doors of unpretentious shops, the owners of which had never dreamed of such distinction. The royal tutors were (a trifle) condescendingly nice to the mistresses, as were the valets and chefs to the maids,

and the little princes allowed themselves to be stared at by "common" children in a way that quite nice ordinary boys and girls might well resent, but which they bore with a pretence, at least, of indifference. All set out to win a popularity and all won it! Never was a royal visit more eagerly anticipated, and never was the chance of its repetition more audaciously traded upon. It became almost an annual bribe by house agents and letters of apartments for years after. The "It has been rumoured, etc., etc.!" And perhaps on few towns in England has the hand of war been more heavily laid than on this East Coast town. From those first days after the declaration of war troops moved into it all day, and all night was heard the heavy traffic of pantechinons moving out of it. Houses emptied with a marvellous rapidity, landmarks were quickly removed, barbed wire fenced the coast, and dug-outs were built all along the "front." Beautiful residences only recently put up on the fine site towards Bawdsey, with their rock gardens and sunk gardens, were demolished. The links were taken over by Government. Sentries guarded—even at the new lych-gate of the old parish church. Property sadly depreciated in value, and the town which had won a well deserved popularity lost it at one blow. Yet East-coasters have missed much in their flight. Here, at least, we have been in near touch with some of the big things of the war. The boom of the guns has come to us across the water, we have become versed in the stirring activities of sea and air craft. And now in this final surrender we see the last act in this tragic drama of the war, and we see it with a silence and dignity that reveals the British heart in the supreme moment of crisis or triumph. On the hazy morning of the 20th while we watched, when the sun just broke through the mist to add a touch of glory, did the exiled War Lord see a vision too? Did he, out at sea, see the *Cork*, and just beyond, waiting, waiting, our escort in the hour of her pride? Then, further out still, did he catch the first glimpse of the twenty U-boats flying their white ensigns, the twenty U-boats that form but a part of the greatest naval surrender history will ever tell of? And with that vision did another come, born from the years that are past, with a fresh stinging memory? Did he see the shining sandy shore, the white house among the hornbeams and tamarisks, and among the rocks with the water lapping about their bare feet the little lads with their nets, to whom the catching of a shrimp was a much more vital matter than the making of a kingdom?—ELIZABETH KIRK.

TOWARDS A HOUSING POLICY.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I agree with all you say in your Leader except that you are under-estimating the increased cost of building when you suggest that a pre-war £350 pair of cottages will cost £550 in 1919. Costs, will, of course, vary in different districts, but consider the following half-dozen increases in prices of labour and materials in this district (Birmingham):

	Pre-war.	Present.
Timber	£10 per std.	£55 per std.
Bricks	30s. per M.	65s. per M.
Cement	35s. per ton	70s. per ton
Tradesmen	9d. per hour	1s. 7½d. per hour.
Labourers	6½d. "	1s. 4d. "
Horse, cart and man ..	10s. per day	26s. per day.

During the next six months wages are to remain at their present standard, and during this period houses will cost more than double their pre-war prices.—EWART DAVIES.

A CLUB FOR FLYING MEN.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I should like to think that something could be done for our air pilots when they return so that they may not lose touch with flying. Many of them love it as a sport, but to keep an aeroplane privately is a great trouble and great expense. It has occurred to me that a club for flying officers would in part fill a want. If the place chosen was on the South Coast near the sea or a river mouth, both land and water machines could be provided, with the necessary hangars, mechanics, fuel, spare parts and a small repair shop. The water would also ensure other pastimes, such as sailing, boating, hydro-planing, bathing and golf. It would be advisable, I think, to suit the club to officers of moderate means who are returning to other occupations, and who could use the club for a short holiday or week-end. It should be self-supporting; the atmosphere should be rather more sporting than smart. Machines could be hired out to members, or their own aeroplanes kept and attended to by expert mechanics. This is the rough scheme, and I should be glad to hear from anyone who approves of it or is interested in seeing it carried out.—H. B. HEWLETT.

"THE SPIRIT WHICH FOUGHT TO THE DEATH."

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—It may be of interest to compare the last line in Meugens' poem "Indestructible" and the counterpart from Emerson quoted by your correspondent "A. S. D. H.," containing the words "Face to face with fortune which he defies," with W. E. Henley's poem "Invictus," which seems to embody the same spirit. I quote the first and last verses:

"Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

"It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate;
I am the captain of my soul."

PHYLLIS LANGHORNE.

A RECIPE WANTED.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I should be grateful if you would kindly tell me through your Correspondence columns if it is possible to make mulberry jam? I imagine it could be done if something were put in to prevent it fermenting. My cook has tried but failed. Though jelly is excellent, it will not keep more than twenty-four hours or so. As I have a large tree I am anxious to know, so much of the fruit being wasted unavoidably in good years.—A. H. P.

ROUND CHIMNEYS IN SOMERSET.

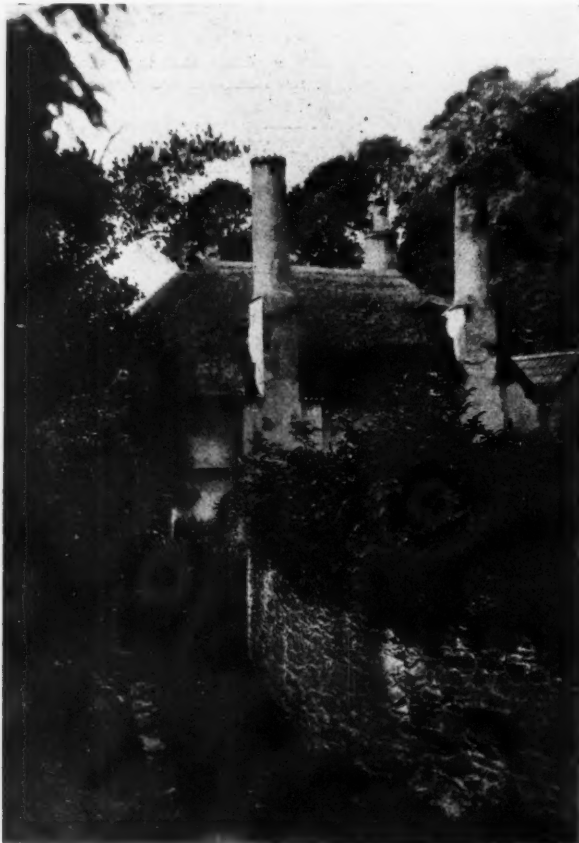
[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I enclose two photographs taken lately of cottages at Selworthy,



AT SELWORTHY.

Somerset. Their curious round chimneys, figuring so prominently, claim one's first attention; and, as far as I can learn, they are a particular feature of the district. The Rev. W. F. Reeder, Rector of Selworthy, has kindly given me some interesting information concerning these cottages. Referring to the round chimneys and their possible origin, he writes: "There is one on the ruins of the original Holnicote House in the grounds of the present home of the Aclands, which dates from somewhere about 1600. Possibly the more modern ones were copied from this, but it cannot be said positively, and Sir Thomas Acland cannot throw any light on their origin." The house showing the central chimney is really two cottages, and the chimney belongs to the right-hand one; that of the left is just showing over the ridge of the roof. The cottages date from about 1790, and are built of rubble stone covered with stucco.—W. E. BALL.



THE CHARM OF ROUND CHIMNEYS.

CHURCH ARCHITECTURE.

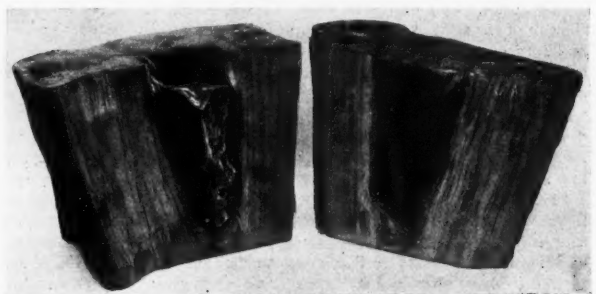
[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—Referring to the interesting letter of Mr. Arthur O. Cook on this subject in your issue of the 9th inst., it may be of interest to that gentleman to know that in the porch of the beautiful west front of Peterborough Cathedral there is a small sculptured stone depicting a group of figures, the central one of which appears to be head downwards and the legs in such a position as would indicate crucifixion. This was pointed out to me as a curiosity when visiting the cathedral as a boy many years ago, but apparently its significance was unknown to my guide. I recollect, however, that the stone was in a bad state of preservation and that the details were difficult to discern. The fact that this is to be seen at Peterborough Cathedral, which is, of course, dedicated to St. Peter, may have some bearing on the legend to which Mr. Cook and you refer. Perhaps some Peterborian antiquary may be able to supplement these somewhat indistinct recollections of mine.—W. E. NOBLE.

A STONE INSIDE A TREE.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I submitted the photograph which I am sending to you originally to a gentleman who is recognised as an authority in this district on these matters, and it may be of interest if I give you herewith a few excerpts from his letter: "I know of no natural means by which the stone could find its way into the tree. Even if the stone fell on the tree and was caught among the twigs it could not naturally penetrate the wood. The stone has a sharp point, and if the growing point of the young tree was broken off and the stone was driven into the wood the tree would not die, but in its continued growth would form new wood round the stone and gradually enclose it. The photographs show the lacerated fibres below the point of the stone, disclosing the original injury, which the tree has made good by the growth of softer tissue to fill up the vacancy. The age of the tree can be estimated by counting the concentric rings in the wood, one year for each ring. The photograph does not show this very clearly, but it looks as if the tree was about fifty years old—perhaps more. The stone may therefore have been there thirty or forty years—not sufficiently far back to warrant a theory of any superstitious observance. The hawthorn, with its May blossoms, had many associations with ancient religious rites, which came down to modern times in popular country festivals—going



SHOWING THE POSITION OF THE STONE.

'a Maying,' the Maypole, etc. The thorn is a tree of slow growth and seldom attains a great girth, but being very hardy, it is well fitted to withstand vicissitudes.—JOHN HIGGINS.

PIGEON FOR THE "POT."

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—Wary, keen sighted, swift on the wing, and one of the hardest birds to bring down, the wood pigeon may be counted among the most difficult of birds to secure for the "pot." Just now, with the picking from the stubble in addition to beech mast and berries, he is well worth all your efforts. There is really only one sure way of outwitting this consumer of the farmers' grain, and that is to lie up, properly camouflaged, as the birds fly to or from their roosting places. Not very sportsmanlike, perhaps, but with cartridges scarce and expensive one cannot afford to allow too much sentiment nowadays where food is concerned. Moreover, you will find that, when your operations have been in progress a day or two, it will need all your ingenuity to escape the piercing search of those marvellous eyes. Just in the same way as friend "Archie" across the water used to endeavour by means of wondrous devices to conceal his whereabouts from the whirring war machines of the air, so must you exercise all your skill against this wild bird, whose sight would be the envy of any pilot or observer. As autumn advances into winter, and the trees lose their foliage, your task will become the more difficult, but there is always the fir tree, and pigeons will roost in a fir tree in preference to any other. When all is said and done, the most essential matters are a shooting suit that blends with the surroundings, stillness, and silence.

"Time to get to your places, gentlemen. They should be starting to come in within the next half hour or so." Our host pockets his watch, and moves off in the direction of a small copse a good distance away. My post lies much nearer the rendezvous, and I am soon snugly ensconced beneath a screen of branches listening to the wind as it sways the topmost branches of the tall firs. For some minutes—it seems hours—I sit perfectly still. A rabbit lollups across the glade a few yards away, and a couple of magpies start to chatter on a tree close by. Then there is a swishing noise of wings in fast flight. I look up stealthily, and catch a glimpse of two pigeons circling the wood, on the watch for any suspicious sign or movement. Again they circle round, and then at length come fluttering to rest above my head; but their wings have scarcely closed before they are dropping dead to my first two barrels. Thud! Thud! Then all is still again.—BORDERER.



"Where's Adam?"



"Fido and Me."



"Tommy Lad."

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A BADGER ON THE LAWN.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—About the middle of September there appeared upon the lawn some patches where the grass had been disturbed—pecked or rooted up. After



THE SCENE OF THE BADGER'S ACTIVITIES.

every two or three nights the patches increased in number till a wide surface of the grass was torn up in small tufts. Here and there was a deeper hole, such as would hold a basin five inches across. At first we thought it was the work of pheasants; but later one of our men who had been an under-keeper recognised the unmistakable track of a badger's feet on the soft earth scratched out of the larger holes. In a hedge bank that surrounds the grounds there are one or two places where we suppose the marauder comes in, for, though the main hole was stopped, it was excavated again, and the same tracks were noted. Traps have been set, but the creature is very wary and has so far escaped them. I should like to know what he comes for; whether it is worms or the root of some plant? The soil is sandy and there is a good deal of the little mouse-ear Hawkweed (*Hieracium Pilosella*), that spreads into wide patches and overcomes the grass. If the root of this is the object of our quest, his visits would be rather welcome than otherwise, and, in any case, it is of interest to know of the presence of these shy, mysterious and none too common animals, our only remaining link with the bear tribe. On the other hand, they are so deadly among chickens and, I suppose, also to young pheasants, that if we caught our badger, his life would be forfeit and, in these days of meat shortage and need of food economy, we should try what could be made of him in the kitchen.—G. J.

RECOVERING HIS FORM IN INTERNMENT.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I am sending you a rather interesting photograph, taken by myself of Captain Cecil K. Hutchison, on the links of the Montreux Golf Club, during the autumn competition. I thought it might be of interest to your readers. It shows a mashie shot with ball in top right-hand corner. You surely will



CAPTAIN HUTCHINSON AT MONTREUX.

be glad to hear that Captain Hutchison availed himself of his internment at Montreux to play a lot of golf at Aigle which enabled him to sufficiently recover his splendid pre-war form.—W. VAN SWINDEREN.

FUNGI UNDER TREES.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—Can you tell me how to cure a plague of fungi of all sorts, sizes and colours which infest the woodland here? They are chiefly under fir trees and they increase each year. If possible, I hope to find some cure less drastic than removal of soil, as they cover a large area. If you, or any of your readers, can advise me, I shall be grateful.—MARY NORTHCLIFFE.

[We can only suggest the removal of the soil and fungi. But why destroy the fungi? They are interesting and some of them highly coloured.—Ed.]

A BIRD OBITUARY.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I enclose a photograph of the rare shoebill that has just died at the Zoo. The species is one that has seldom been exhibited in captivity, the first occasion being in the year 1860, when Mr. J. Petherick, Vice-Consul at Khartoum, presented a pair to the London Zoological Society. These, however, lived but a very short time. It was not until June 29th, 1912, that another specimen, presented by the Sirdar, Sir Reginald Wingate, arrived in this country. The bird appeared to thrive well, but after an interval of about nine months it died suddenly of mycosis. On July 15th, 1913, the same donor sent over another shoebill, the death of which we now announce. In addition to the above-mentioned birds, only four other examples have ever been exhibited in captivity. Three of these, captured in the year 1902, were to be seen in the Zoological Gardens at Giza, near Cairo, and the remaining one, caught in the previous year, was exhibited at Khartoum. Apart from the extraordinary appearance of the shoebill, the bird is of more than usual interest to zoologists, its anatomical structure showing that it can claim affinity with the herons, storks, pelicans and gannets. According to Captain Butler, the Superintendent of the Game Preservation of the Sudan, the shoebill never wades in open water, but roams about in the swamps where the water is only a few inches in depth. It feeds principally upon fish, capturing the same by making dabs into the water with its enormous beak when it sees its prey moving about within reach. Of a savage and unsociable nature, shoebills never mix with other wading or marsh birds, while, moreover, they do not appear to appreciate the company of their own kind and kin, but prefer to remain at a respectful distance from the one from the other. The nest of the shoebill is composed of grass cut to the required length by the bird's beak. The first authentic record of their eggs having been found was when the late Lord Kitchener discovered one in the early part of the year 1911. In October of the same year a second nest containing two eggs was found by Mr. Shakerley, of the Irrigation Service, and Capt. F. A. Dickinson. Young shoebills have been successfully reared from eggs incubated by domestic hens, and one may well imagine that the foster-mothers were well satisfied with the development of their chicks.—B.



THE SHOEBILL WHICH RECENTLY DIED AT THE ZOO.

POISON GAS FOR RATS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—The war, now happily ended, combined with the Boche, has made us familiar with the effects of poison gas when it drifts along a trench among our soldiers. We are of course capable of making such or much more effective gas, and I do not see the reason why poison gas might not be used to exterminate the rat pest, for if the gas were sent into the runs leading to a rat stronghold the whole colony would be obliterated. I see no reason why poison gas could not be used with good effect in such visitations as the plague caused by the antler moth caterpillar, or that a spray of poison gas might not be effective in dealing with the pests on our fruit-trees and on the growing crops in field and garden. My suggestions are, at any rate, worthy of consideration, and I would say, give poison gas a trial on our home enemies.—JUBA.

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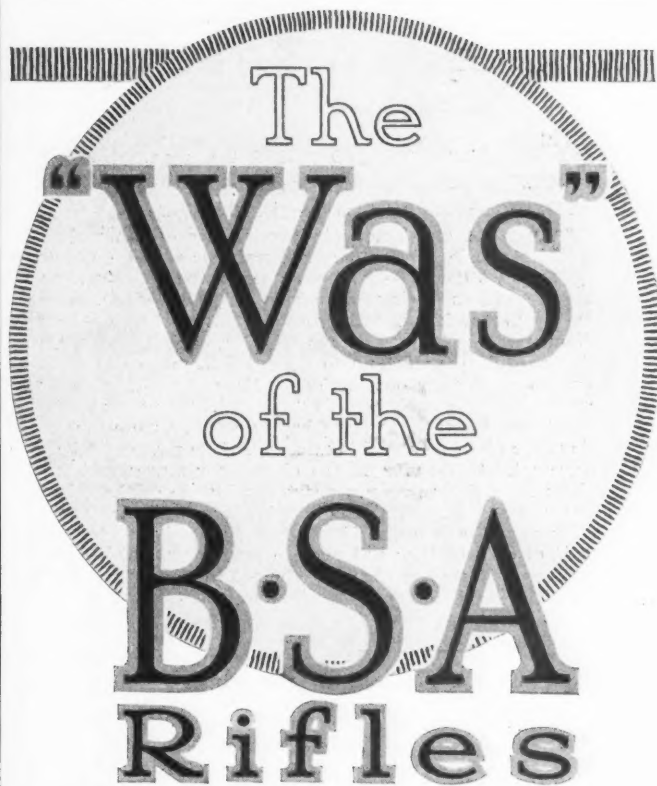
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This war-time record will be dealt with in our announcement next week.

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EVERYDAY THINGS IN ENGLAND

FROM THE CONQUEST TO 1499.

A History of Everyday Things in England, by Margorie and C. H. B. Quennell. Part I, 1066—1499. (Batsford.)

TO make our history interesting, its events realisable, its people alive—to transform it, as it were, into a mental cinema—has been one of the leading aims of recent, as distinguished from older historians. Genealogies of kings, catalogues of battles, lists of Acts of Parliament are dry reading for all, and especially for young students. When I went up to Oxford I felt no enthusiasm at the prospect of going out in Modern History. But while I was a freshman Green published his "Short History of the English People," and I saw that what I had esteemed a mere task could be developed into an absorbing pursuit. The past could become the present. Green vivified the elementary stages and taught me how I could take up my quarters with the originals he had drawn upon. With Brakelond and Matthew Paris, Froissart and Chaucer I could realise Plantagenet England almost as clearly as that of Charles II was shown me by Evelyn and Pepys.

Many writers since then have helped to strew the beginner's path with the fragrant herb of interest, so that his journey towards knowledge may no longer be a weary pilgrimage but an *allegro* march. And now some remaining ruts and roughnesses have been rolled smooth by Mr. and Mrs. Quennell. The first part of their "History of Everyday Things in England" fully effects its purpose of showing lads and lassies how their mediæval forebears dwelt and dressed and worked and played. It will not only help them to understand what kings and statesmen, nobles and commoners were doing and striving for, but it will bring home to them what was good and beautiful in those times and so aid in equipping them in their future task of enhancing the good and beautiful in their own environment. Lasting peace after devastating war is ushering in a new era and:

To the boys and girls who are in our public schools to-day will be given opportunities which no other generation has ever had, and it is of the greatest importance at the moment that they should be trained to do useful work and learn to use their hands. Before they can become actual constructors and craftsmen, able and deserving to carry on the work of the world, they must obtain a good store of knowledge—lay hold of tradition, so that they can benefit by what has been done—know that in one direction progress can be made, and that in another it will be arrested; then the coming generation may be able to combine the wonderful appreciation for the uses and beauty of material which the old craftsmen possessed with the opportunities for production which the modern machine gives, and so lead to a new era of beautiful everyday things.

Castles, monasteries and manor houses, as they altered and developed from the twelfth century to the fifteenth century, are made vivid by plan and picture, aiding the description of how they were devised to fulfil their purposes and suit the varied and changing requirements of their inhabitants. As an architect, Mr. Quennell naturally, but not inordinately, dwells upon this theme, and his paragraphs on timber roofing and stone vaulting are admirable in their terse sufficiency and simple phrasing.

At a moment when we realise how big a part the Navy has played in the great tragedy of victory we welcome the careful drawings and explanations of early war craft, from the long, one-masted and oar-propelled boats that brought the Conqueror and his men over the Channel, to the three-masted, full-sailed ships with fore and aft "castles" and cabins, that formed the fleet with which Richard III hoped to intercept Henry Tudor on his way to Milford Haven. Warlike deeds fill a good deal of space in our authors' book; but then, as they say: "We gain an impression from Froissart's pages of the very slight pretexts on which people went to war, and how they enjoyed it." How comparatively innocuous it was to those engaged we can judge when we compare modern artillery, from Big Berthas to machine guns, with the catapults and such other engines of war which were, not often successfully, used in the attempt to break down and storm Edwardian castles:

The trebuchet was the great mediæval weapon and was first introduced by the French in the twelfth century; one of these is shown at the lower right-hand corner of the picture. This acted on the principle of a counterweight; a long arm was pivoted on a very strong framing, and had suspended to it at one end a large box which would be filled with stones, old iron, lead, or anything else heavy. At the other end was a sling, in which was placed a stone shot, and a bridle was attached to the sling from the arm, which ensured the stone being pitched out at the right moment. The arm, was wound down by a windlass, and the sling disposed in a trough at the foot of the framing. The trigger touched off, the counterweight came into action, and off flew the stone to smash through a roof. Sometimes barrels of flaming tar would go over the walls, or dead horses, and this gives one an idea of the sizes the trebuchets were made.

The arts of peace, however, fill most of the pages of Mr. and Mrs. Quennell's well and fully illustrated volume, which exhibits farming processes under Edward III as revealed by the Luttrell Psalter, rightly described as

Full of the most beautiful little drawings of horses and carts, peasants and windmills, and the artist, in the most obliging way, seems to have tried

to give us an exact idea of what everyday life and things looked like in England just before the Black Death.

The scope and sufficiency of home work and home produce are duly emphasised:

The manors were self supporting, or nearly so, the lords and their dependants growing all the wheat and meat they required; making their own bread, butter and cheese; and weaving homespun clothes woven on their own looms, and, in fact, buying little outside except tar, fish, furs, salt, iron, spices, silks and fine cloths at the great fairs.

The war has led to some reversion to such practices in country places, with the result that there are those who have come to believe that the production of everyday requirements may be made as interesting as playing a lawn game.

H. AVRAY TIPPING.

TURF, STUD AND STABLE

A CORRESPONDENT, who describes himself as having been interested in the breeding of heavy horses, asks if I can venture into more detail in reference to the War Office proposals for demobilising and disposing of their many thousands of war horses, many of which, he rightly assumes, should prove of inestimable value in resuscitating all branches of horse breeding in the United Kingdom. He has frequently heard from friends in the Expeditionary Force in France that there are some splendid specimens of heavy draught mares bred and built on the right lines and with many years of usefulness in front of them for users and breeders. "I take it for granted," he observes, "that these horses will be the first selected by the Army authorities for repatriation. What I and many other breeders with whom I have spoken want to know is: Is it certain that they will be brought home, and how soon shall we know where and when they will be forthcoming for inspection and purchase? Also, are the Army authorities concerned alive to the tremendous importance of making large numbers, indeed as many as possible, available for the breeding season which nominally opens on January 1st?"

These questions are evidently asked of the writer as the result of recent references in these notes to the great dispersal of horses which has to take place. To give explicit answers to my correspondent is not possible, for the good reason that the War Office has not yet seen fit to take the public into their confidence as to their plans. The sooner they do so the better, since, I take it, my correspondent is only one of very many who are keenly interested in the subject, and who are seeking for light and information. What I wrote in a recent issue was really little more than observations deduced from a logical survey of the position, based also on the assumption that sooner or later the time must come when in the interests of national economy, apart altogether from the impoverished horse resources of the country, the tens of thousands of our war horses must pass from military to civil ownership. The time of their release from military control must, of course, depend on how long our Armies remain in occupation, and, after that, the length of time taken to bring home our divisions from France. Therefore it seems useless to expect the great influx taking place for quite a considerable time. But we are entitled to assume that with the cessation of hostilities a certain surplus must have been created. Then there are also the many horses in Army ownership in this country at the present time; so that I do not see any reason why a beginning should not be made at once with a dispersal of picked mares of all kinds in view of the close proximity of the 1919 breeding season.

Until the official schemes are made public we should, I think, be doing an injustice to the War Office (with whom the Board of Agriculture at this critical juncture should be working in very intimate association) were we to assume that the position in this country and the serious needs of the breeding and horse-using industry are not receiving full and adequate consideration. We have reached a point now when a bad policy—a policy which does not appeal to the sympathy and support of those who are wanting to and waiting to buy—would have most disastrous results. What is wanted is an assurance that the best possible animals are going to be available for the restoration of badly damaged breeding interests and that a year's breeding will not be lost to the country through inability to appreciate the tremendous possibilities of this branch of the Army's vast scheme of demobilisation.

Within a very few days Messrs. Tattersall will be busily engaged at Newmarket, working through the heavy catalogue of their annual December sales. On the whole, the stallions, mares, young stock, and horses in training to be offered are far from being a brilliant lot, but most assuredly the market must benefit enormously by the splendid outlook. We are faced at last with the blessings of a lasting peace and early normality. Perhaps the best of the horses in training to be offered is Mr. M. Singer's Milton, which is of particularly good class, and was a smart winner at the concluding meeting last season. I understand, however, the reserve on him is £3,000. PHILLIPPOS.